



Federal Bureau of Investigation

Freedom of Information / Privacy Acts

Release

Subject: American Opinion Magazine

ATTENTION

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☐ FOIA/PA☐ Litigation☐ Executive Order Applied

Requester: _____

Subject: _____

Computer or Case Identification Number: _____

Title of Case: _____ Section _____

* File _____

Serials Reviewed: _____

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File Number: 100-32899 (BS) Section 2Serial(s) Reviewed: ALL

FOIPA Requester: _____

FOIPA Subject: _____

FOIPA Computer Number: 997349 / 1009282

File Number: _____ Section _____

Serial(s) Reviewed: _____

FOIPA Requester: _____

FOIPA Subject: _____

FOIPA Computer Number: _____

File Number: _____ Section _____

Serial(s) Reviewed: _____

FOIPA Requester: _____

FOIPA Subject: _____

FOIPA Computer Number: _____

THIS FORM IS TO BE MAINTAINED AS THE TOP SERIAL OF THE FILE, BUT NOT SERIALIZED.

SCANNED BY DocLab (RMD)

DATE: _____

ATTENTION

LAST SERIAL _____ DO NOT REMOVE FROM FILE

Memorandum



To : SAC, BOSTON

Date

12/18/01

From : LEGAL SECTION (190-85-89598)

Subject : FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - PRIVACY ACTS (FOIPA)
(File Destruction)

The following have been reviewed pursuant to an FOIPA matter and may not be destroyed.

Questions concerning this matter should be directed to the office FOIPA personnel.

File - Serial

100- 32899

MAINTAIN

AS

TOP SERIAL

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 01-30-2012

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/13/04 BY SP4BJA/PLJ
#953994

PLEASE DO NOT ADD TO THIS VOLUME

100-32899-59

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	
OCT - 6 1950	
FBI - BOS	

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 01-30-2012

NEW ENGLAND POLICE PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION INC.
P.O. Box 481, Brookline Village 47, Massachusetts

September 26, 1960

NOTICE TO MEMBERS:

The next regular meeting of this Association will be held in Natick, Mass., on Tuesday, October 4, 1960, at the E. P. Clark Post, American Legion, on West Central Street, which is Route 135, parallel with and south of Route 9, the Worcester Turnpike. The meeting will be held on the second floor of the building, about 500 feet from the Police Station, in Natick Square.

This is a special meeting for several reasons. The main feature will be film strips synchronized with recorded tape to present "COMMUNISM ON THE MAP", produced by the House Committee on Un-American Activities as an eye-opener, and presented to our group as a public service by the John Birch Society. The second feature will be the newsreel films which were gathered by that same committee and studied to successfully identify the rabble rousers who stirred up trouble in the recent San Francisco riots.

These would be worthwhile presentations without regard to content if we were merely interested in police photography. The slide : tape combination shows how effectively a story can be told or a lesson taught without recourse to motion pictures, and this could be used by our departments more extensively. The scanning of motion pictures to make identifications and study what took place is an advanced technique in investigation.

However, the subject of Communism in these presentations is of over-whelming importance. No police officer can afford to be un-informed, or worse still, uninterested in the Communist threat. And we feel that the officer's family and close associates should understand whatever steps he is prompted to take. For this reason the Board of Directors voted to make this an "open" meeting to the following extent: (1) Members are allowed, even urged, to bring their wives (and/or girl friends); (2) Members are encouraged to bring on personal invitation their chiefs or ranking officers, and other law enforcement personnel who should be vitally interested, on a selective basis; (3) All persons attending will sign in by leaving at the door on entering a slip bearing name, rank and department.

Now, a word about the John Birch Society. It is named in honor of an American missionary, who also served his country with great distinction as a member of its armed forces, and who was brutally murdered by Chinese Communists a few days after the surrender of Japan. Thus John Birch was perhaps the first American, following World War II, to become a death casualty in the present, titanic, world aggression of socialist-athoistic-collectivism against all free men. In this struggle the Society is dedicated to the proposition that freedom under God shall endure! The general philosophy of the Society is: less government, more responsibility, a better world. The Society is neither Democrat nor Republican; it is voluntary and private; it has neither religious nor racial barriers. It is distinguished by its philosophy and its ideals.

A staff member of the Society will be present to answer questions on the films and on Communism in general. The presentation stands alone, and is not intended for recruiting. However in appreciation to the Society for making the material available, we suggest that any individual who is sincerely interested and desires more information concerning the Society should give the representative a slip bearing his name and address, or mail the inquiry to the John Birch Society, Belmont 78, Mass.

11/1/60
#953994

New England Police Photographers Assn. Inc.

Meeting Oct. 4, 1960 at Legion Post, Natick

In order to allow the invited guests to gather, the meeting will begin at 8:00 PM instead of the usual, earlier hour. This meeting will not be a business meeting except for the necessary appointment of a Nominating Committee, and those appointed by President Hurley will be given notification in person to save time. The usual meeting of the Board of Directors at an earlier hour has been omitted on this occasion.

Refreshments will be served (coffee and doughnuts).

REMEMBER! NATICK LEGION POST IN NATICK SQUARE.....8 P.M.....10-4.

b6
b7c

TO: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, BELMONT 78, MASS.

NEPPA 10-4-60

Please send more information to me concerning the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY.

Name:

Address:

Telephone Number:

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE - NEPPA 10-4-60

Name: Rank:

Department

Guest of Member:

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE - NEPPA 10-4-60

Name: Rank:

Department

Guest of Member:

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC(100-32899)

DATE: 10/3/60

FROM : [REDACTED] A.C.

b6
b7C

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
Info. Concerning-
INTERNAL SECURITY

Attached is a communication received by [REDACTED]
regards to a meeting on Oct. 4, 1960 by the New England Police
Photographers Association Inc. [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

In view of the information on the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY,
file 100-32899 [REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/02 BY SP7BJA/PLJ

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 01-30-2012

100-32899-60

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIAL	FILED
OCT 6 1960	
FBI - BOSTON	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, Boston

FROM : *SK* SAC, Tampa (100-new-dead)

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
SECURITY MATTER - MISC.

DATE: 10/31/60

This office has been receiving a number of inquiries of late concerning the captioned society. We have no information in our indices concerning same. Information has been received that the John Birch Society had an address of Belmont 78, Massachusetts.

It would be appreciated if you would furnish this office a summary of any information contained in your file concerning captioned organization as well as any literature issued by said organization.

2 Boston
1 Tampa
JFS:KH
(3)

File on date 11/4

*RECEIVED
NOV 3 1960
11/5/60*

100-32899-61

SEARCHED <i>E</i>	INDEXED <i>E</i>
SERIALIZED <i>d</i>	FILED <i>AKW</i>
NOV 3 1960	
FBI - BOSTON	
<i>CORRIS</i>	<i>MC</i>

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 01-30-2012

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 11/10/02 BY 4046jg/plj

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, (100-32879)

DATE: 11-5-60.

FROM : SA JAMES A. BRENNAN

SUBJECT: ROBERT H. W. WELCH
IS-ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/1/02 BY SP4Bja/plg

On this date [redacted] Wilmington, Mass.
 Phoned this Office, stating that during the afternoon [redacted]
 had received a phone call from Western Union in which [redacted]
 was told that that agency had a telegram addressed merely to
 ROBERT WELCH of Melrose. The Western Union employee stated that
 she had been unable to locate anybody of that name presently living
 in Melrose and had learned that [redacted] (now of Wilmington)
 had lived in Melrose until several months ago. She felt therefore
 that this telegram might be for them.

b6
b7C

[redacted] copied down the telegram which read:

"Conservative group indicted and arrested for exposing
 Socialist record of candidate for State Office. JBS
 members in group could back-fire strongly against
 leftists. Advice from headquarters needed.

s/ [redacted]

b6
b7C

The only other information which [redacted] had was that the
 telegram was sent from Portland Oregon. H stated that this
 telegram was not meant for him and had no significance to him.

JAB

100-32899-62

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 5 - 1960	
FBI - BOSTON	
C. J. [redacted]	

11/8/60

PLAIN TEXT

AIRTEL

REGISTERED

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)
FROM: SAC, BOSTON (100-32899)
SUBJECT: ROBERT H. WELCH, JR.
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

On 11/5/60, [redacted] Wilmington, Mass. telephonically advised that on that date [redacted] received a phone call from Western Union advising that Western Union had a telegram addressed merely to ROBERT WELCH, Melrose, Mass. The Western Union employee, unable to locate anybody of that name presently living in Melrose, learned that [redacted] of Wilmington, Mass. had formerly resided in Melrose.

b6
b7c

The telegram read as follows:

"Conservative group indicted and arrested for exposing Socialist record of candidate for State Office. JBS members in group could back-fire against leftists. Advice from headquarters needed. Signed [redacted]"

b6
b7c

It appears that the "JBS" in telegram may refer to "The John Birch Society" organized by ROBERT H. WELCH, JR. of Belmont, Mass. in December, 1958, and that possibly the telegram was meant for this individual.

DEC:ras

- 3 - Bureau (62-104401)(RM)
- 2 - Portland (RM)
- 1 - Boston (100-32899)
- (6)

8/29/84 diplo hys/maes
20504

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 01-30-2012

FFJ 64

100-32899-63

BS 100-32899

Information concerning ROBERT H. W. WELCH, JR.
and "The John Birch Society" appears in SAC Letters 59-13
dated 3/10/59 and 60-5 dated 1/26/60.

Portland should follow instructions in SAC Letter
60-5 in event a chapter of "The John Birch Society" is
organized.

No investigation conducted at Boston

LAUGHLIN

11/9/60

PLAIN TEXT

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)
FROM: SAC, BOSTON (100-32899)
SUBJECT: ROBERT H. WELCH, JR.
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

Re Boston airtel dated 11/8/60 captioned as above,
inadvertently omitted information that the telegram addressed
to ROBERT WELCH, Melrose, Mass. was sent from Portland, Oregon.

LAUGHLIN

DEC:ras
3 - Bureau (62-104401)
1 - Portland (62-
1 - Boston (100-32899)
(5)

8/29/84 Sp6 bja/pmk
#220504

100-32899-64

11/14/60

AIR - TEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM : SAC, PITTSBURGH (62-0)
SUBJECT: BURKE ORGANIZATION
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

On 11/10/60 [redacted] telephonically advised SA [redacted] that he was approached in a local flower shop on that date by a [redacted] who was attempting to secure signatures on a petition directed to President Elect JOHN F. KENNEDY urging removal of J. EDGAR HOOVER as Director, FBI, and his appointment instead as Attorney General of the United States. [redacted] further stated that [redacted] upon inquiry, advised him that the Burke Organization, Boston, Mass., was sponsoring the petition. [redacted] refused to sign the petition and described [redacted] as being about 5' tall and having [redacted]

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Burke Organization may possibly be identical with John Birch Society, Belmont, Mass. (Bufile 62-104401).

b6
b7c

Pittsburgh indices contain no record identifiable with [redacted] or Burke Organization. No inquiry this office, UACB.

Copy furnished to Boston for information since Burke Organization and/or John Birch Society located in Boston territory.

- 3 - Bureau
- 1 - Boston (Info)
- 1 - Pittsburgh

REG:rl
(5)

INFORM

4/1/02

SET/ALP

Handwritten: 100-32899-65
Handwritten: John Birch Society
Handwritten: S

SAC, TAMPA (100-New-Dead)

November 23, 1960

SAC, BOSTON (100-32899)

ROBERT H. WELCH, JR.
The John Birch Society
Belmont 73, Massachusetts
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

Re Tampa letter to Boston 10/31/60, entitled
"JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, SM - MISC."

"The John Birch Society" was created in December,
1958, by ROBERT H. WELCH, Jr. of Belmont, Massachusetts.

Information concerning WELCH and "The John Birch
Society" appears in SAC Letters 59-13, dated 3/10/59 and
60-5 dated 1/26/60.

Tampa should follow instructions contained in
SAC letter 60-5 in event a chapter of "The John Birch
Society" is organized.

RUC -
2 - Tampa (100-New-Dead)
1 - Boston (100-32899)

DEC:atl
(3)

1. 02 wpt/bj/pf

100-32899-66

BS-8 Revised (6-17-59)

THESE DAYS

Impeachment Plan Nonsense

By GEORGE SOKOLSKY

NOW ALONG COMES a very sane person, Robert Welch, of the John Birch Society, of Massachusetts, who wishes to impeach Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the United States. One may disagree with, dislike, oppose Earl Warren, but impeachment is another matter. It involves a bill of particulars, specific, clear-cut, subject to evidence and analysis. Welch does not provide that. He says:

"... We believe that the impeachment of Warren would dramatize and crystallize the whole basic question of whether the United States remains an independent republic, or gradually becomes transformed into a province of the world-wide Soviet system."

But this is not the issue at all. This is a private opinion, not a fact. What is necessary is to indict Earl Warren for high crimes and misdemeanors that will stand up in a trial. Thus far, only one President of the United States has been impeached, and unsuccessfully, and no Chief Justice of the United States has been impeached. That does not mean that none ever should be. It does, however, mean that this is not a simple process for indicating opposition. Under our system, it is extremely difficult.

ROBERT WELCH thinks otherwise:

"We further believe that it is entirely possible to bring about that impeachment in the present House of Representatives, through insistent enough demand by the American people. If one-half of the known present conservative leaders will give their ener-

getic support to this undertaking..."

Apparently, Welch has no conception of the procedure involved in an impeachment. The Constitution makes provision for it in Article 1, Section 2, Clause 5, which reads: "The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other officers; and shall have the sole power of impeachment." And in Article 1, Section 3, Clause 6, which reads: "The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments. When sitting for that purpose, they shall be on oath or affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside; and no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present."

CERTAINLY in the present composition of our Congress, there is no possibility that the time will be allotted by the leadership of either party for such an impeachment. For what would have to be proved? The indictment could not show that the Chief Justice's views were unpleasant, for there are eight other justices who could have voted him down. It would have to be shown that he was corrupt, that he accepted bribes, that he was subversive, that his conduct was opprobrious to the United States and the court.

No matter what can be said of Earl Warren, it cannot be said that he has been corrupt, which means accepting bribes, or that he has been subversive, which means, in this context, that he is engaged in treacherous to damage the

CONFIDENTIAL
EXEMPTED FROM AUTOMATIC
DECLASSIFICATION
DATE 2/11/02 BY 60340 JAP/ply

X Boston American, Boston, Mass.
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.
Christian Science Monitor,
Boston, Mass.
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 1-14-61
Edition: RA - CHARTS
Author: GEORGE SOKOLSKY
Editor: TIMOTHY BROOKS
Title:

Class. or Character:
Page: 12
Bufile No.
Submitting Office: Boston

100-32899-67

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

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*File
John Birch Society*

CC-100

United States in the interest of a foreign foe. No bill of particulars can be brought forth to prove such charges. Therefore to talk of impeachment is nonsense.

I CALL ATTENTION to this not because it is of any significance of itself but because conservatives need to use common sense in their agitations. There are things to be said and to be done but these need to be focused on ideas, not on impractical proposals to impeach the Chief Justice because there is disagreement about his views or to discover an invisible government which has controlled all the administrations from Herbert Hoover to John Kennedy. It is nonsense. Why not impeach the entire court and get over and done with it?

The conservatives of this country are numerous but not always coherent. Unless they find intelligent leadership that relates what they do and say to the realities of American life, they will make no greater progress in the new Democratic administration than was made in the old Eisenhower administration. American conservatives need a program and less talk.

One of the first points of a conservative program must be that the United States cannot tolerate the cost of unemployment or racial or creedal battles while this country is engaged in a life-struggle against the Soviet universal state. And the one absolute essential is that the American dollar should again become hard money, well secured and soft. The conservatives need to decide whether they prefer to fight against Communism or against each other.

(~~Wm. F. Buckley, Jr.~~ ~~1964~~, ~~King~~ ~~Rev.~~ ~~and~~ ~~Pat~~)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, BOSTON

DATE: 1/19/61

FROM : SAC, CINCINNATI (100-NEW)

SUBJECT: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

OO: BOSTON

On 1/13/61 [redacted] Jewish Community Council,
184 Salem Avenue, Dayton, Ohio, furnished the following
information to SA [redacted]

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The Jewish Community Council at Dayton has received information that The John Birch Society of Boston, Massachusetts, presently has several members in the Dayton, Ohio, area whose identities are unknown.

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[redacted] described The John Birch Society as an organization which purports to fight Communism. He said, however, that he has learned that a speaker of this Society has stated at a meeting that "We will have to give up some of our democratic processes to achieve our aims". This organization has, in the past, called President EISENHOWER a Communist.

A [redacted] has advised him that there are two known members of this Society in Dayton whose identities were not disclosed. [redacted] said that this organization is basically composed of Catholics; that it is an extreme right-wing group; and that although it is not a violent type of organization, it definitely has "anti-Semitic overtones". [redacted] further advised that a source [redacted] has advised the Anti-Defamation League that this group is definitely anti-Semitic and has the backing of considerable wealth.

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P

2 - Boston (RM)
2 - Cincinnati

AEG:mak

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DATE 01-30-2012

100-32899-68
N CONTINUED
RECEIVED UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/10/02 BY [signature]

FBI - BOSTON

(4)

CI 100-NEW

According to [REDACTED] JOHN BIRCH was an individual killed by the Communists in China. The John Birch Society is supposedly backed by a candy manufacturer by the name of WELCH.

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[REDACTED] said that his organization, which is affiliated with the Anti-Defamation League, is definitely interested in this organization in view of the allegations of anti-Semitism. He said that his organization has a source of information at [REDACTED] which is furnishing information concerning the Dayton "cell" of The John Birch Society. He said that [REDACTED] is conceivable that this organization may, at some subsequent date, be cited by the United States Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450. [REDACTED] stated that if the Bureau desired further information concerning the Dayton activities of this group, [REDACTED]

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The Boston Division is requested to advise Cincinnati of any information in their files concerning captioned organization.

SAC, CINCINNATI (100-new)

1/31/61

SAC, BOSTON (100-32899)

THE JOHN HIRCH SOCIETY
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Reurlet 1/19/61 regarding the above caption.

◆
Please be advised this organization has never been investigated by the Boston Division. The head of the organization is ROBERT H. WELCH, JR. and information concerning him is contained in SACLETS 59-13 dated 3/10/59 and 60-5 dated 1/26/60.

Registered Mail
PMC:maJ
(3)

F B I

Date: February 8, 1961

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via Airtel _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

To: SAC, Boston (100-32899)

From: Director, FBI (62-104401)

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

3/26/86 SP7 MacKenzie

Reference is made to previous correspondence concerning
The John Birch Society (JBS) and its founder, Robert H. Welch, Jr.

You are instructed to check appropriate established
sources and records to determine the facts concerning the
incorporation of JBS, its incorporators, its aims and purposes,
its financial position, its credit rating and the number of
chapters it has throughout the country. You should determine
sufficient background data concerning the incorporators in order
that they can be readily identifiable in the files of your office
and the Bureau. You should furnish a summary of the information
in your files concerning each incorporator.

You are also to determine background data concerning
the formation or incorporation of "American Opinion," which
is published by Welch in Belmont, Massachusetts, its financial
standing, its credit rating, the size of its circulation and the
manner in which it is distributed throughout the country.

The above is to be handled in such a manner that no one
will get the impression we are investigating Welch, JBS or
"American Opinion." This matter is to receive expeditious
attention. The desired data should be forwarded to reach the
Bureau by 2/18/61 without fail.

Adm
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w/

Mura

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 1961	
FBI - BOSTON	
James	Mc

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 01-30-2012

100-32899-70

Sent Via _____ M Per _____

Boston, Massachusetts
February 17, 1961

"AMERICAN OPINION,"
a publication of
Robert Welch, Inc.,
305 Concord Avenue
Belmont, Massachusetts

CONFIDENTIAL
2/16/61
JFK

A. INCORPORATION

Records of the Secretary of State, Department of
Corporations, State House, Boston, Massachusetts, show this
business organization was incorporated January 13, 1956,
listing address as 24 Orchard Street, Belmont, Massachusetts.
Officers of the Corporation were listed as:

President	Robert H. W. Welch, Jr. 43 Fletcher Road, Belmont, Massachusetts
Treasurer	Robert H. W. Welch, Jr. 43 Fletcher Road, Belmont, Massachusetts




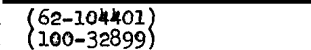
Directors were listed as:

Robert H. W. Welch, Jr.



SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED d
INDEXED _____
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B. NAMES OF INCORPORATORS

1. Robert H. W. Welch, Jr. (Shares of Common Stock 1001)
43 Fletcher Road,
Belmont, Massachusetts
2. 
3. 

5-Bureau (62-104401)
1-Boston (100-32899)

DBG:po'b
(6)

100-32899-71

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1

"AMERICAN OPINION"

C. AIMS AND PURPOSES

The dissemination of information to the general public through the medium of the publication of papers, books, magazines and lectures,

To buy, sell, rent, lease, mortgage and otherwise deal in goods, wares, merchandise and personal property of every name, nature, and description and incidental thereto; to buy, sell, rent, lease, mortgage and otherwise deal in lands or any interests therein, houses, buildings, real estate of every nature or description, factories, manufacturing establishments or equipment and to engage in manufacturing of every sort and description; to draw, accept, endorse, acquire and sell negotiable or transferable instruments or securities, including bonds, notes and bills of exchange, to subscribe for, acquire, hold, sell, exchange and deal in shares, stocks, bonds, obligations or securities of any private or public corporation, government, or municipality and this corporation shall have express power to hold, purchase or otherwise acquire, sell, assign, transfer, mortgage, pledge or otherwise dispose of capital stock, bonds, debentures or other evidence of indebtedness created by this or any other corporation, and while owner thereof to exercise all the rights and privileges of ownership including the right to vote thereon; in general to carry on the business in connection with the foregoing and to transact any business permitted a business corporation under the provisions of Chapter 156, General Laws of Massachusetts.

"AMERICAN OPINION"

B. FINANCIAL POSITION

A financial statement filed April 23, 1958 showed assets of \$27,320.85 and the following data concerning stock:

Total authorized	1,000 shares	Preferred
	5,000 shares	Common
Total issued	10 Preferred	Value \$1,000.
	4,010 Common	Value \$4,010.

A financial statement of June 3, 1959 showed assets of \$65,003.54 and the following stock data:

Total issued	322 Preferred	Value \$32,200.
	4,322 Common	Value \$ 4,322.

A financial statement of June 27, 1960 showed assets of \$77,475.82 and the following stock data:

Total issued	334 Preferred	Value \$33,400.
	4,334 Common	Value \$ 4,334.

The following is from a Dun and Bradstreet report dated March 25, 1959 entitled Robert Welch, Inc., "American Opinion," 385 Concord Avenue, Belmont, Massachusetts:

Robert H. Welch, Jr. - President and Treasurer

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Summary

Principal of independent means organized Corporation to publish an anti-Communist periodical. Financial statement is lacking.

History

The trade style is unregistered. It is the title of the periodical published by the subject corporation.

This is a Massachusetts corporation formed January 13, 1956. Authorized capital 1,000 shares of preferred stock and 5,000

"AMERICAN OPINION"

shares of common stock. At incorporation date there were 1,000 shares of the common stock issued, of which 1,001 shares were held by Robert Welch, President and Treasurer.

Robert H. Welch, Jr. was born in North Carolina in 1899 and is married. He is Vice President of James O. Welch Co., Inc., Candy Manufacturers, Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was actively engaged in that corporation from 1935 and continues to be active in an advisory capacity. In a financial statement of June 30, 1957 the corporation showed a tangible net worth of \$1,951,936 and a good financial condition. Welch is also an officer of five corporations affiliated with James O. Welch Co., Inc., which corporations act as sales organizations for the manufacturing concern. At the present time Welch devotes nearly all his time to the subject business.



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The periodical published by the subject was originally called "One Man's Opinion." However, the name of the publication was changed in February, 1957 to "American Opinion."

Operation - Location

Publishes the "American Opinion" and is an anti-communistic periodical. Annual subscriptions are sold at the rate of \$5 per year to individuals in the United States and abroad. There are 11 issues published annually. The only advertising solicited is from book and magazine publishers. Two regular employees. The actual printing is done by others.

Headquarters located on the first floor of this modern two-storied concrete block and brick office building located on a main thoroughfare, commercial section.

Financial Information

On March 24, 1959 Robert H. Welch, Jr. declined a financial statement. He did say that the corporation had sufficient funds available to meet its trade obligations and other operating expenses.

"AMERICAN OPINION"

No volume figures were given but there are estimated to be between 5,000 and 6,000 subscribers to this publication with the annual volume probably \$25,000 or better.

The extent of the capital investment and the overall condition could not be definitely determined. Operations are believed to be breaking even at best with the corporation being financed by advances from Welch. He is considered to be of independent means.

The following is from a Dun and Bradstreet report dated September 26, 1960:

Robert Welch, Inc.
"American Opinion"

Robert H. Welch, Jr. - President and Treasurer

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Summary

Corperation publishes anti-communist periodical. Financial statement withheld.

Operation

Publishes "American Opinion" which is an anti-communistic periodical. Annual subscriptions sold at \$5 per year to individuals in United States and abroad. Eleven issues annually. The actual printing is done by others. 6,000 subscribers with annual volume about \$25,000.

Welch also active in John Birch Society which he organized to combat communism.

"AMERICAN OPINION"

E. CREDIT RATING

The credit rating at Dun and Bradstreet and at the Credit Bureau of Greater Boston for Robert Welch, Inc. was favorable.

F. CIRCULATION AND MANNER OF DISTRIBUTION

The Dun and Bradstreet report of March 25, 1959 reflects that annual subscriptions to "American Opinion" are sold at the rate of \$5 per year to individuals in the United States and abroad, with 11 issues published annually. This report estimates between 5,000 and 6,000 subscribers with an annual volume of probably \$25,000 or better.

A source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on February 14, 1961, that voluminous mail, bearing the return address of both "The John Birch Society" and "American Opinion," 385 Concord Avenue, Belmont, Massachusetts, is handled at the Belmont, Massachusetts Post Office. This source further advised that these matters are handled both as first class mail (sealed) and as third class mail (unsealed).

This memorandum contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Boston, Massachusetts
February 17, 1961

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, INC.
385 Concord Avenue
Belmont, Massachusetts

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A. INCORPORATION

Records of the Secretary of State, Department of Corporations, State House, Boston, Massachusetts, show that this organization was incorporated on December 23, 1958 and given charter number 624-300. The officers of the Corporation were listed as follows:

President	<u>Robert Welch</u>	43 Fletcher Road, Belmont, Massachusetts
Treasurer	Robert Welch	43 Fletcher Road, Belmont, Massachusetts

Directors were listed as:

Robert Welch 43 Fletcher Road
Belmont, Massachusetts

5-Bureau (62-104401)
1-Boston (100-32899)

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DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 01-30-2012

3/26/86

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100-32899-72

Index P142
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THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, INC.

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B. NAMES OF INCORPORATORS

1. Robert Welch 43 Fletcher Road, Belmont,
Massachusetts

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

C. AIMS AND PURPOSES

To promote civic interest in national and international affairs by an educational program and collection of literature and dissemination of the same for educational purposes; and to do any and all things which may be necessary and incidental to the foregoing, and in general, to do all other things which may be legally permitted to this corporation by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 180, and acts in amendment thereof and in additional thereto as a non-profit business organization.

D. FINANCIAL POSITION

As a non-profit business organization it was not required to file a financial statement but was required to file "An Annual Report of Officers." The first annual report filed November 16, 1959 showed the same officers and directors

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, INC.

as named at the time of Incorporation. No report has been received by the Secretary of State for the year 1960.

The following is from a Dun and Bradstreet report dated August 5, 1960 captioned "John Birch Society, Inc., 385 Concord Ave, Belmont, Mass."

Robert H. Welch, Jr., President-Treasurer

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Summary

A non-profit organization which publishes Anti-Communist Information. Financial statement declined.

Trade

Subject is not a general seeker of credit due to the nature of the operation.

Finance

On August 4, 1960 Robert Welch, Jr., President and Treasurer, declined a financial statement and complete operating details. He did say that the Corporation had sufficient capital to meet its needs but gave no detailed figures. Welch is now known to represent considerable means in his own right, however, the extent of the capital investment here and the method for financing has been withheld at this time.

Operation

Publishes a monthly bulletin of an anti-communistic nature. Purpose is to combat communism by means of this literature. Location: Headquarters location on first floor of this modern two-story building in commercial section.

History

This is reported to be a Massachusetts Corporation now under the laws governing non-profit and educational corporations. Organization details not immediately available. Active operations began in 1959.

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, INC.

Welch, Jr., born in North Carolina in 1899, is married. He is Vice President of James O. Welch Co., Inc., Candy Manufacturers, Cambridge, Massachusetts, which corporation has a net worth of more than \$2 million and a good financial condition. Welch is active at that point and in an advisory capacity. He devotes most of his time to the subject Corporation and to Robert Welch Inc. which is located at the above address and publishes a monthly bulletin, "American Opinion." Statement of that Corporation is unavailable.



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As far as could be learned there are no inter-company relations between the subject and James O. Welch Co., Inc. The extent of any inter-company relations between John Birch Society, Inc. and Robert Welch, Inc. not disclosed.

E. CREDIT RATING

The credit rating at Dun and Bradstreet and at the Credit Bureau of Greater Boston, Inc. for Robert Welch, Jr. was favorable.

F. NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

The Blue Book of the John Birch Society, copyright 1959 by Robert Welch, states the Society was founded December 9, 1958 at Indianapolis, Indiana. Page 177 of the Blue Book reports "We now have a full-time staff of Coordinators at work, helping to establish chapters and to supervise those already established in Mass., Florida, Michigan, Illinois, Tennessee and Texas."

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, INC.

On December 21, 1959, Mr. Robert W. Welch, Jr. stated that there were chapters of the John Birch Society in 15 different states.

G. BACKGROUND DATA CONCERNING INCORPORATORS

The following information concerns Robert W. Welch, Jr.

Records of the Harvard Law School, Alumni Records Office, Cambridge, Massachusetts, reflect that Robert M. W. Welch, Jr. was at Harvard Law School from 1919 to 1921 and received no degree. He received his A. B. degree from the University of North Carolina in 1916 and, as of both 1948 and 1953, was Vice President in charge of Sales and Advertising for the James O. Welch Company, Candy Manufacturers, 810 Main Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The 35th Reunion Report of the Harvard Law School, Class of 1922, published in 1957, in addition to information set out above, reflects that he married [redacted] 1922 and [redacted]

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It also showed that he was in the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland during World War I and during World War II was on the Advisory Commission of the Office of Price Administration. In addition, from 1951 to 1954, he was a member of the Belmont, Massachusetts School Committee and had served as a Director of several small businesses and one bank. From 1951 to 1957, he was a Director of the National Association of Manufacturers, being its Vice President from 1955 to 1957. The report listed two publications by Mr. Welch: "May God Forgive Us" (1952) and "Life of John Birch" (1954).

Volume 4 of "Who's Who in New England," dated 1948, sets forth the following additional information:

Mr. Welch was born in Edenton, North Carolina, December 1, 1899. He was a founder of the Oxford Candy Company in 1922 and its Sales Manager in 1935. From 1940 to the time of publication, he had been Vice President and Director of Sales and Advertising of the James O. Welch Company, Cambridge, Massachusetts. As of the date of publication, he is shown as

THE JOHN KIRCH SOCIETY, INC.

a member of the Board of Directors of Robert Welch Publishing Company; Chairman of the Board of the Washington Commission of the National Association of Candy Manufacturers; a member of the Board of Directors of the United Prison Association, and during World War II was a member of the Office of Price Administration Committee for the candy industry. He is shown to be the recipient of the Kettle Award by the candy industry in 1947 and a member of the Massachusetts Chess Federation (Board of Directors, 1940-1944).

Mr. Welch is shown as a Republican and lists his clubs as: Harvard (Boston and New York), Skating (Boston), Oakley Country (Board of Directors). He is author of "Road to Salesmanship" (1941) and has contributed articles to business publications. He is further shown as a public speaker on business, economic and social conditions. His home address is shown as 43 Fletcher Road, Belmont, Massachusetts, and his office as 810 Main Street, Cambridge 39, Massachusetts.

Personnel at the office of the Massachusetts Commissioner of Probation, Suffolk County Courthouse, Boston, Massachusetts, a central repository for criminal and traffic conviction records within the Commonwealth, advised that they were unable to locate any records identifiable with the names of the Incorporators.

Personnel at the Credit Bureau of Greater Boston, Inc. advised that they were unable to locate any record for the following Incorporators:



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These records reflected the following on -

1. Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., 43 Fletcher Road, Belmont, Massachusetts, President and Treasurer of Robert Welch, Inc. (publishers), 385 Concord Avenue, Belmont. Credit favorable.

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, INC.

2. Ellen Douglas Snow (formerly Gucker). A report dated March 5, 1957 showed her as wife of Stanley Garman Snow, residing at 24 Orchard Street, Belmont, Massachusetts. Her age was 47 and his was 54. He was employed by Lee Higginson Corp., Boston, Massachusetts (Investments). Credit favorable. A report dated June 2, 1954 indicated that Ellen Douglas Gucker, 24 Orchard Street, Belmont, Massachusetts was the widow of Alexander Gucker. She was then employed by Robert Welch of Welch Candy Co., 510 Main Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts regarding his writing and lecturing. Her former addresses were listed as 70 Horace Road, Belmont, and 169 Sycamore Street, Albany, New York. Credit favorable.
3. [redacted] Massachusetts. A report dated March 28, 1947 showed her age as [redacted] and single. Employed by James O. Welch Co., 510 Main Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, for past [redacted] years. Credit favorable. b6 b7C
4. [redacted] Massachusetts. A report dated October 30, 1958 showed him as [redacted] George O. Jenkins Co., Bridgewater, Massachusetts. Credit favorable.

This memorandum contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)

2/17/61

SAC, BOSTON (100-32899)

**THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, INC.
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)**

3/27/86 *SP/mac/ale*

Rebuairtel to Boston dated 2/8/61.

Enclosed are five copies of a letterhead memorandum entitled "The John Birch Society, Inc." and five copies of a letterhead memorandum entitled "American Opinion," a publication of Robert Welch, Inc., for possible dissemination by the Bureau. No dissemination is being made locally, by the Boston Office.

The investigation was conducted by SA DARREL B. CURRIE at Boston and Belmont, Mass. on 2/10, 14 and 15/61.

The source who furnished information on [redacted] was [redacted]

As pointed out in Boslet to the Bureau dated 9/2/59 captioned "ROBERT H. W. WELCH, INC., INFORMATION CONCERNING, INTERNAL SECURITY," HERBERT A. PHILBRICK had stated that he was a "home" member of the John Birch Society. A separate lead is being set out to contact PHILBRICK at Rye Beach, W. H. for any current information regarding the number of John Birch chapters now functioning, and for any other pertinent data concerning this matter. The Bureau will be advised concerning this at a later date as PHILBRICK is currently on a speaking engagement on the West Coast.

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b7D

Files of the Boston Office contained background information on [redacted] of the Incorporators of "The John Birch Society, Inc.," namely, ROBERT W. WELCH, JR. and [redacted]. The information on WELCH has been set forth in the letterhead. It is to be noted that records at the Credit Bureau of Greater Boston, Inc.,

2-Bureau (62-104401)(Encs. 10)(RM)
1-Boston (100-32899)

DBC:po'b
(3)

Endit P1

Post Vending
100-32899-73

BS 100-32899

11 Beeson Street, Boston, Mass., indicated that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Boston files contain a report dated 9/29/41 at Philadelphia
entitled [REDACTED] "APPLICANT - SPECIAL AGENT,"
showing [REDACTED] the applicant.

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b7c

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (100-32899)
(ATTN: SA PAUL A. KEANE)

DATE: 2/17/61

FROM : SA DARREL B. CURRIE

SUBJECT: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFO CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

Rebuairetel dated 2/8/61 which requested data concerning incorporation, aims and purposes, financial position and number of chapters throughout the country of the above-captioned organization.

A letterhead memorandum has been submitted to the Bureau containing available information.



b7D

A memorandum of SA PAUL A. KEANE dated 2/6/61 entitled "HERBERT A. PHILBRICK 66-1020" reflects that PHILBRICK is presently on a speaking engagement on the West Coast.

LEAD

AT RYE BEACH, N. H. Interview HERBERT A. PHILBRICK for additional information re number of chapters and membership figures for the John Birch Society and any other current data of a pertinent nature.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5/11/00 BY 4046jg/pjg

100-32899
DBC:po'b
(2)

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
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DATE 01-30-2012

100-32899-74

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 17 1961	
FBI - BOSTON	

Keane

2-21-61

F B I

Date: February 21, 1961

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

✓ To: SAC, Boston (100-32899)

✓ From: Director, FBI (62-104401)

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

Re Bureau airtel 2-8-61.

Bufiles fail to disclose a reply to re Bureau airtel which was to have been forwarded to reach the Bureau by 2-18-61 without fail. Advise by return airtel if reply has been submitted and, if so, the date and caption thereof.

In the event the reply has not been submitted advise the Bureau when the reply may be expected and furnish explanations from responsible personnel as to why the Bureau deadline of 2-18-61 was not met. You should also include your recommendation for any administrative action deemed warranted.

100-32899-75

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
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DATE 01-30-2012

Sent Via _____ M Per _____
3/14/80 Spina/na Jc

2/23/61

PLAIN TEXT

AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)

FROM: SAC, BOSTON (100-32899)

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

Rebuairtel 2/21/61.

Please refer to Boston letter 2/17/61 entitled as above which enclosed to the Bureau a letterhead memorandum entitled, "The John Birch Society, Inc." and also a letterhead memorandum entitled, "American Opinion," a publication of Robert Welch, Inc., for possible dissemination by the Bureau.

Registered Mail
Prohibited
(4)

3/26/80

Spencer

100-32899-76

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC BOSTON 100-32899

DATE: 2/23/61

FROM : SA PAUL A. KEANE

SUBJECT: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFO CONCERNING
IS

Re memo of SA CURRIE dtd 2/17/61 to contact H. PHILBRICK.

[REDACTED] advised this date that Philbrick is on extended speaking tour of the Far West and is due to return to Rye Beach on or about 3/10/61

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PHILBRICK will be interviewed thereafter re the above matter.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/02 BY SP4BJA/AL

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 01-30-2012

100-32899-77

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INDEXED
SERIALIZED
FILED
MAR 1 1961
FBI - BOSTON
C. J. [signature]

ORGANIZATIONS

The Americanists

Among the U.S. brotherhoods dedicated to the fight against Communism, nothing is quite like the John Birch Society. Except for an elite corps of leaders, its members shun personal publicity, and their names are held by the society in strictest secrecy. Its cells, of 20 to 30 members apiece, take orders from society headquarters, promote Communist-style front organizations that do not use the John Birch name. Carefully avoiding normal channels of political action, the society accepts the hard-boiled, dictatorial direction of one man who sees democracy as a "perennial fraud" and estimates that the U.S. is 40% to 60% Communist-controlled. In other times, other places, the John Birch "Americanists"—as they call themselves—might seem a tiresome, comic-opera joke. But already the society admits to cells in 35 states, and its partisans have made their anonymous and unsettling presence felt in scores of U.S. communities.

In Wichita, Kans., student members of the society are trained to tell their cell leader of any "Communist" influence

21

noted in classroom lectures; by phone, parents belabor the offending teacher and his principal for apologies and admissions of guilt. A Wichita businessman who planned to make a modest contribution to a University of Wichita fund was dissuaded because members of the society were demanding that certain professors and books be thrown out. "My business would be wrecked," said he, "if those people got on the phone and kept on yelling that I am a Communist because I give money to the school." Society members in Nashville, Tenn., started telephone campaigns to warn homeowners that some of their neighbors were suspected Reds. The project with current top priority is the impeachment of Chief Justice Earl Warren, and activities in a dozen cities range from the "spontaneous" circulation of petitions to a rash of letters to newspapers, and a HELP IMPEACH EARL WARREN banner strung across the main street of Pampa, Texas (and taken down by the police a few hours later).

The Red Plot. All society activity comes under the firm thumb of a balding, deceptively mild-mannered, retired businessman from Belmont, Mass., named Robert Welch. Son of a North Carolina farmer, Baptist Welch, 61, spent 25 years as an executive with Cambridge's famed candy-making James O. Welch Co. (run by his brother). After the war, Welch began to bone up on Communist literature; eventually he decided that

schemes as social security and federal income tax laws were part of a Red plot to ready the U.S. for Soviet conquest. Welch left candy for fulltime anti-Communist pamphleteering in 1957. He founded the John Birch Society the next year, naming it for a U.S. Navy captain killed by Chinese Communist guerrillas after V-J day.

Welch's *Mein Kampf* is a masterpiece of invective called *The Politician*. Shown only to close friends, the book is now being withdrawn from circulation, largely because its judgments on contemporary leaders repelled more people than they attracted. Some Welchian estimates:

¶ The Eisenhower brothers: "... Milton Eisenhower is actually Dwight Eisenhower's superior and boss within the Communist Party ... For [the former President], there is only one possible word to describe his purposes and his actions. That word is treason."

¶ CIA Director Allen Dulles: "The most protected and untouchable supporter of Communism, next to Eisenhower himself, in Washington."

¶ The late John Foster Dulles: "A Communist agent."

Right-Wing Names. For public consumption, Welch has kept his vitriol well enough in check to avoid libel suits. A prolific author, he has turned out reams of Red-baiting copy, including the *Black Book* that guides the society's action. He puts out the monthly *American Opinion*, as well as a bulletin that informs



Boston Herald-Traveler
LEADER WELCH

His word for the Eisenhowers: treason.

dues-paying (\$24 a year for men, \$12 for women) members of the society's monthly aims. Despite the ill fame of *The Politician*, Welch has been highly praised as a freedom fighter by a horde of familiar right-wing names, e.g., Actor Adolphe Menjou, Lawyer Clarence Manton, ex-Diplomat Spruille Braden, who grace the society's council and have the right to appoint his successor.

Not all conservatives are so sanguine about Welch. Many object to the society's contempt for dissent from its views, feel that its militant words and thoughts are barely a goose step away from the formation of goon squads. "This is the kind of thing that does violence to every Christian thing we know," says the Boston, Mass. *Daily Record*, Boston, Mass.

Boston An	
Boston Gl	
Boston He	
Boston Tr	
Christian	
Boston, Mass.	
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.	
X	Time Magazine
Date:	3-9-61
Edition:	
Author:	
Editor:	
Title:	The John Birch Society Info. Concerning
Class. or Character:	SM-C
Page:	21
Bufile No.	
Submitting Office:	Boston 100-32899

100-32899-78

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 01-30-2012

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 10 1961	
FBI - BOSTON	

Belmont Man's Commie Slur At Ike Flayed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Milton R. Young (R.) of North Dakota said in the Senate yesterday that leaders of an ultra-conservative and semi-secret group operating in many states have falsely accused former Pres. Eisenhower of being a Communist.

Young said the organization is known as the John Birch Society, claims to be fighting Communism and has accused Young himself of "being about every kind of a scoundrel, including a Communist or pro-Communist."

He said the leader of the Birch Society is Robert Welch, a retired business executive of Belmont, Mass.

Editor's note: At his Belmont office, Welch said he "knew of Young's remarks but had absolutely no comment," then added "it would take too long to tell, no comment." Welch retired as vice president of one of the nation's leading candy companies to devote full time in fighting Communism.

RAN FOR LT. GOVERNOR

He was a leading Republican and once was a candidate for lieutenant governor. Welch is a graduate of Annapolis and Harvard Law School.

He runs a publishing company which specializes in anti-Communist books, magazines and pamphlets.

His first book exposing Communism, "May God Forgive Us" was published in 1952. Another was "The Life of John Birch" a well documented account of a Baptist missionary outliving wartime and postwar Communist influence.)

Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield of Montana lauded Young for his denunciation of the society.

Young said the society has organized cells in North Dakota among "some of the most able and influential people in each community."

MAKES ACCUSATIONS

He said Welch has "made accusations against the President of the United States and other top officers far beyond anything the late Sen. Joe McCarthy, (R.) of Wisconsin, even thought of."

"To label some of our most loyal and dedicated people as Communists plays right into the hands of the Communists," he added.

Young placed in the Congressional Record articles from the Chicago Daily News of last July 26 and the current edition of Time Magazine dealing with the Birch Society and Welch.

The news story said Welch is author of a book, "The Politician," which tries to prove that former Pres. Eisenhower was a dedicated Communist and his brother, Milton R. Eisenhower, was "Ike's superior in the Communist party."

The Time article told of society activities in several states and said Welch is a former prominent Boston businessman who regards the income tax and Social Security as moves toward communism.



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/02 BY 4546/a/plg

Boston American, Boston, Mass.
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.
Christian Science Monitor,
Boston, Mass.
X Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 3-9-61

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: The John Birch Society
Info. Concerning

Class. or Character:

Page: 6

Bufile No.

Submitting Office: Boston 100-32899

100-32899-80

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 9 1961	
FBI - BOSTON	

BS-8 Revised (6-17-59)

Lists Two Rhode Island Backers

Birch Society a National Irritant

By LEWIS W. WOLFSON

Richard Cardinal Cushing, Catholic Archbishop of Boston, confirmed today that he had written a letter endorsing the John Birch Society, an extreme right wing group, but said he intended to look into the society's operation further.

The letter was reproduced in a booklet issued by the society, based in Belmont, Mass.

The society's agitation for causes on the extreme right has begun to be felt throughout the country, causing considerable discussion of its operation and investigation of its strength.

Two Rhode Islanders, Robert B. Dresser of Providence and Norman D. MacLeod of Kenyon, who are listed on the Committee of Endorsers, today confirmed that they are backers.

The Birch Society was denounced on the floor of the U.S. Senate last week by Sen. Milton R. Young, a notably conservative North Dakota Republican. He was joined in the de-

nunciation by Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, D-Mont. Cardinal Cushing told the Journal-Bulletin this morning that he had only met Robert H. W. Welch Jr., the society's founder, "once or twice a few years ago" and "didn't know anything about his society."

He said that he was impressed with Mr. Welch's anti-communist attitude and endorsed the society "as part of his program. I thought it undoubtedly reflected his own anti-communist attitude and thinking."

The Cardinal added that "if he's going to be attacking people, I'm just going to withdraw my name."

Cardinal Cushing said he felt that any stir that might be raised about his letter was "a lot of nonsense." He thought that the society might well be "one of those things that have gone to the extreme right just as some go to the extreme left."

He said he would look into it

after he returns from a projected trip to Ireland.

The letter is reproduced in one of the latest of the society's publications, a compilation of its supporters and endorses with a statement of aims, which was shown to the Journal-Bulletin last night.

It was dated April 28, 1960, and addressed to a Mr. C. M. Crawford, Los Angeles, Calif. It read:

"Dear Mr. Crawford:
"Replying to your recent letter, I beg to advise you that I do not know of any more dedicated anti-communist in the country than Robert Welch.

"I unhesitatingly recommend him to you and endorse his John Birch Society.

"Under separate cover I am sending you some literature that may be of interest to you."

Mr. Dresser, reached by telephone in Sarasota, Fla., said

Continued on Page 18, Col. 1
Birch

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/1/02 BY 4145/ply

Boston American, Boston, Mass.
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.
Christian Science Monitor,
Boston, Mass.
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.
THE EVENING BULLETIN, Providence, R.I.

Date: 3/13/61
Edition: 1st
Author:
Editor: SEYMOUR BROWN, III
Title: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Class. or Character:
Page: 1 of 18
Bufile No.
Submitting Office: Boston

100-32899-81
MAR 15 1961
FBI - BOSTON

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b7c



Speaker: Gordon D. Hall, right, an expert on hate groups, and guest speaker at the First Unitarian Church last night, discussed his topic before the meeting

with, l-r, Arthur Michel of Providence, the Rev. William R. Jones of Brown University and the Rev. Robert H. Schacht, senior minister of the church.

—Journal-Bulletin Photo

Birch Society a National Irritant

Continued from Page One
that he is an endorser of the society but refused to make any further comment.

Mr. MacLeod said he had been a member of the society since it started. "I have known Bob Welch a great many years. He and I had often talked about communism and subversion." He said that "eventually he (Mr. Welch) thought up this plan" to fight communism.

He said that there are two or three persons in Rhode Island in the "Home Chapter," the group's members-by-mail unit. He said he had talked with Mr. Dresser about the Birch Society.

He thought the society had tried to start a "cell" in the state "some little time ago but I don't know what came of it."

He has not been asked directly to do any particular work for the society but "they would like me to do what I've been doing for quite a while."

Founded in 1958

The John Birch Society was founded in December, 1958, by Mr. Welch, retired executive of the James O. Welch Candy Company in Cambridge.

In the two years since, Mr. Welch has privately published two major tracts outlining a militant anti-communist movement; claimed the organization of cells in 34 states; built the membership to a figure variously estimated between 100,000 and 200,000 persons; launched a campaign to propagandize, and to influence teaching methods and the choice and writing of textbooks; and energized various causes such as those to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren of the U.S. Supreme Court, abolish foreign aid, denounce NATO and summit

meetings—particularly through front groups.

In his manifesto, "The Politician," which he claims is not necessarily a bible for the Birch Society, Mr. Welch dropped a couple of bombshells that in recent weeks have exploded into the headlines: He has labeled as Communist agents, former President Eisenhower, his brother, Milton, the late John Foster Dulles, and his brother, Allen, director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Milton Eisenhower is supposed to be his brother's "superior and boss within the Communist Party" and "treason" is cited as the only word for the former president's "purposes and actions."

FDR, Truman Named

Also, either "knowingly" or "unknowingly" used by the Communists were former Presidents Roosevelt and Truman.

"The Politician" and the "Blue Book," a handbook for society members, have gradually leaked out to the press, in addition to Welch bulletins to chapters and his longtime monthly "American Opinion."

Mr. Dresser, an attorney who has been associated with the National Economic Council, the Committee for Constitutional Government and other ultra right wing groups, led the successful fight against fair housing legislation in Rhode Island. Recently, he has campaigned in support of the work of the House committee on un-American activities which has come under fire.

Mr. MacLeod also was an opponent of fair housing bills. Gordon D. Hall of Boston, a writer and lecturer, conducted a personal probe of right wing groups for 15 years, says he has no knowledge of any John Birch cells yet in operation in Rhode Island.

He told an audience at the

First Unitarian Church, Providence, last night, that "to the best of my knowledge there are no organized hate groups in Providence or in any other large city" in the state.

He praised Mr. Dresser for taking a stand and sticking by it, but noted that from his past writings, "the Dresser role here is very obvious."

Mr. Hall felt that Mr. Dresser "failed to distinguish between a real legitimate conservative cause and one that spills into the extremist areas."

Mr. Hall felt that the reason for the exposure of the John Birch movement is that it has begun to make itself felt all over the country, with its harangue of school officials, lecturers, textbook writers and the like.

Although no "cells" apparently have been organized here, Mr. Welch in his latest pamphlet notes there are members of the "Home Chapter" or mail correspondents in every state.

"Volunteer Coordinators"

He says that many members first came in through the Home Chapter and later are transferred to local chapters as they are formed. He said there are now "Volunteer Coordinators" in 30 states and they will be appointed in other states. The ultimate aim is a million members, of fervent patriotism and unassailable character.

John Birch was a Navy captain who, while doing intelligent work in the Orient during World War II, became a missionary for his strong fundamentalist faith. He was killed in cold blood by the Chinese Communists a few days after the war ended.

Society dues are \$24 a year for men, \$12 for women and \$1,000 for a life membership. The home office is at 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, Mass.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC BOSTON (100-32899)

DATE: 3/17/61

FROM : SA PAUL A. KEANE

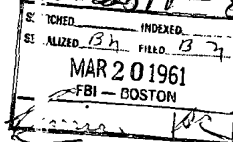
SUBJECT: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFO CONCERNING
(IS)

Re memo of SA CURRIE dtd 2/17/61

HERBERT A. PHILBRICK stated this date that in a discussion with ~~Robert W. Welch, Jr.~~ Robert W. Welch, Jr., the founder of the society, Welch told him there are 20 chapters in Houston, Texas. Welch also had told him that he would make him a home chapter member, but Welch did not describe what such a member was. After the contact with Welch which was 2 years ago, Philbrick received by mail a "blue" book and a "Black" book. Both of these describe the organization in detail. Philbrick said he would have these available to the writer during the week of Mar 20, 1961. Philbrick said that each black book is numbered and each person is responsible for its safe-keeping. The book is subject to recall at any time by the organization. Philbrick also advised that he knows that there is one chapter of the society in Bismark, N. Dakota.

The writer will contact Philbrick 3/20-22/61 when he returns from Texas and obtain additional details re the society. Philbrick was interviewed at the Portsmouth RA enroute from Waterville to Quincy, Mass.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/02 BY 4162/pjg



Excerpts From Society's 'Blue Book'

These are some excerpts from Robert Welch's "Blue Book" for the John Birch Society:

"The John Birch Society will operate under completely authoritative control at all levels. The fear of tyrannical oppression of individuals, and other arguments against the authoritative structure in the form of governments, have little bearing on the case of a voluntary association, where authoritative power can be exercised and enforced only by persuasion; and what little validity they do have is outweighed by the advantages of

the firm and positive direction of the Society's energies . . ."

"Actually, we are going to cut through the red tape and parliamentary briar patches and road blocks of confused purpose with direct authority at every turn . . ."

"Whenever and wherever, either through infiltration by the enemy or honest difference of opinion, that loyalty (to my leadership) ceases to be sufficient to keep some fragment in line, we are not going to be in the position of having the Society's work weakened by

raging debates. "We are not going to have factions developing on the two-sides-to-every-question theme . . ."

"Those members who cease to feel the necessary degree of loyalty can either resign or will be put out before they build up any splintering following of their own inside the society . . ."

"Whenever differences of opinion become translated into a lack of loyal support, we shall have short cuts for eliminating both without going through any congress of so-called democratic processes . . ."

b6
b7C

March 14, 1961

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sirs:

My mother has been the recipient of some material from the John Birch Society of Belmont, Mass. which is disturbing to me, and I would like some information about them if you have any. What sort of an organization is this, is it reputable, what sort of reputation does it have in your part of the country.

It seems to profess to be anti-communistic but I wonder if this is true.

I surely would appreciate any information you could give me on this matter.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

b6
b7C

100-32899-83

470 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts

March 21, 1961


[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter dated March 15, 1961 has been received, and the interest which prompted your communication is indeed appreciated.

While I would like to be of assistance, the function of the FBI as a fact-gathering agency does not extend to furnishing evaluations or comments concerning the character or integrity of any individual, organization or publication. I regret therefore that I am unable to comply with your request for information.

Very truly yours,


L. L. Laughlin
Special Agent in Charge

LLM lhm

2/13/02 Sp4kja/plj

100-32899-84

(D) THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY (JBS) -- SAC Letter 59-13 (F), dated March 10, 1959, set out background data concerning Robert H. Welch, Jr., a candy manufacturer of Belmont, Massachusetts, and his anticommunist campaign. SAC Letter 60-5 (C), dated January 26, 1960, advised that in December, 1958, Welch created an organization called "The John Birch Society," the long-range objective of which has been summarized as "less government, more responsibility, and a better world."

Recently, a printer [redacted] advised he had received an order from JBS to print 10,000 copies of my poster, "What You Can Do To Fight Communism." The JBS also requested the printer to print an addition on the poster to the effect that this statement was being distributed under the auspices of the JBS. We have advised the printer that the FBI has not given approval for JBS to reproduce the poster nor could the FBI approve of the addition to the poster reflecting its distribution by JBS.

In view of this irresponsible organization's attempt to capitalize on the FBI's prestige, no Bureau publications of any kind are to be made available to JBS or to any of its representatives. You should be alert to the possibility that this group may attempt to reproduce Bureau publications and distribute them giving the impression that the FBI sanctions JBS. Immediately advise the Bureau of any such information coming to your attention. Further, any requests by JBS to reproduce Bureau publications should be turned down.

3/21/61
SAC LETTER NO. 61-14

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1/19/02 BY 10424/pj

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MAR 21 1961	
FBI - NEW YORK	

SA [redacted] 8

ASAC [redacted]

6-10-61

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (100-32899)

DATE: 3-27-61

FROM : SA KENNETH P. WEST

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING

[REDACTED]
telephonically advised that he is a graduate of Idaho University and was thinking of going to work for the John Birch Society, although he has not as yet contacted them. [REDACTED] said he wanted to know if this service had any information in its file concerning this organization which might help him make up his mind as to whether or not he should go to work there.

b6
b7C

It was explained to [REDACTED] that the FBI could supply him with no information in this regard; that even if we did have any information it would be confidential and could not be divulged; and that the FBI would not make any comment pertaining to the John Birch Society. He was further advised that his decision as to whether he goes to work there is something he will have to make for himself, or at any rate something with which the FBI could not assist him.

b6
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/13/02 BY SP4BJA/pj

100-32899-86

B7N B7N

5

[Handwritten signature]

Boon or Threat?

Birch Society Stirs National Controversy

From a red-brick building in suburban Belmont has spread an idea—in fact, a philosophy—that has captivated nearly 100,000 Americans.

It also has provoked the most heated political controversy since the heyday of the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

The two-story brick building at 395 Concord Ave., Belmont houses—in a spacious first-floor office—the headquarters of the semi-secret John Birch Society and its founder-leader, Robert H. W. Welch Jr.

The controversy that boils in its wake centers not on the society's noble aim—fighting commu-

BIRCH

(Continued on Page Thirteen)

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DATE 01-30-2012

Boston American, Boston, Mass.
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.
X Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.
Christian Science Monitor,
Boston, Mass.
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 3-19-61
Edition: FIVE STAR FINAL
Author:
Editor: HAROLD CLANCY
Title: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Class. or Character:

Page: 1, 3

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Submitting Office: Boston 100-32899

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MAR 29 1961	
FBI - BOSTON	

(Continued from First Page)

nism—but on its methods. Its critics charge that it resorts to the Reds' own weapons of smear and deceit, and in the process blackens many innocent people.

SPECIAL TEAM OF REPORTERS

Just what is the background of the John Birch Society? How does it operate? Who are its supporters and its critics? What is its strategy—and the strategy of its opponents?

To find the answers, United Press International mobilized a special reporting team to research and investigate the society's operations and opposition across the nation.

Here is the first of that team's revealing reports:

By UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Residents of Santa Barbara, Calif., were in for a surprise when they stepped out into the bright and blowy morning of Feb. 26 to pick up their Sunday newspapers.

In that quiet and beautiful city of about 60,000, a respected fellow citizen had discovered what he felt was an outrage.

"The editor and publisher of the began a two-column editorial on NewsPress is in his 88th year," the front page.

"His entire life has been spent in this community... he lived when conditions were rugged. When West was West and men were men.

"He lived during periods when if a man or a group of men openly by word of mouth, or the printed word, called our President... and others at the head of our government, traitors, they were made to answer.

"Such slanders often called for a visit from a courageous and irate group which brought with them a barrel of tar and a few feathers..."

Thomas More Störke, rancher and citrus grower, owner of a newspaper since 1900, briefly by interim appointment a United States senator, president of the University of California, was taking a stand against the John Birch Society. And against its founder and leader, Robert Welch of Belmont, Mass.

Welch, 61, retired from a candy firm four years ago to devote his life to fighting communism. What bothered Editor Störke was the way Welch was fighting it.

In a letter written before he set up the society late in 1958 Welch told friends that: President Eisenhower; his brother, Dr. Milton Eisenhower; the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and his brother, Allen Dulles, then and now head of the Central Intelligence Agency, were Communist underground members.

LOOKING AROUND FOR COMMUNISTS

But the statement about Eisenhower wasn't all Störke had on his mind. In Santa Barbara itself, blessed as few communities in the nation with the comforts of both nature and material wealth, lives a member of the society's 26-man council, Dr. Granville Knight, a physician.

Several active chapters of the semi-secret society were studying communism at private meetings and looking around town for Communists to expose.

The secret Communist looks and acts just like anybody else, only more so," Welch had instructed them in the society's "Blue Book." In fact, Welch said, one of his prime suspects is "one of the nicest men you ever met. Most of them are."

Exposure of such persons, even through "mean and dirty" techniques, Welch said, is one of the most effective means of shocking Americans awake in time to save themselves from Communism.

He advises members to set up front groups, to infiltrate community organizations and to engage in direct letter writing to promote specific campaigns of his ultra-conservative society.

What is the real nature of this relatively new group on the American political scene? Political scientists would classify it as ultra-conservative.

It is and will remain a subject of controversy, however, over whether its tactics are compatible with American democratic principles as they are most popularly understood.

OPPOSES POLITICAL CONCEPT OF DEMOCRACY

It is, in itself, an authoritarian society. (Editor Störke's adjective was "totalitarian.") Welch does not say the United States should have a similarly authoritarian form of government.

But he is far from completely sold on the form we now have. And as for the political concept of a democracy, he regards it frankly as a "weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud."

By Welch's political standards, Dwight Eisenhower is a Communist, and so are many others in high government places, past and present. These are standards not everyone accepts.

The U. S. Senate on March 8 heard Sen. Milton B. Young, North Dakota Republican, declare that Welch's accusations against Eisenhower and others had gone "beyond anything the late Joe McCarthy ever thought of."

On the other hand a Senate In-

Internal Affairs subcommittee has described Welch's John Birch Society as a "patriotic organization."

And because there is evidence to support the society's claim that it is growing, the controversy around it is also bound to grow in the months ahead.

Santa Barbara was not the first or the last community to have been torn by the society's activities nor to have seen it assailed by its newspapers.

The organization has become embroiled in controversy in many states, including Wisconsin, Texas, Ohio, Kansas, California and North Dakota.

At issue between the society and many who might otherwise share Welch's conservative views, is his reasoning that everything he personally considers wrong is a Communist plot.

At issue between the society and those who condemn it is the tendency of its activities, to suppress if not the right, at least the respectability, or dissent.

This question has split the Supreme Court itself in decisions which have qualified the First Amendment rights of witnesses before the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

Inhibition of free speech caused by such private organizations as the Birch Society, have had no judicial rule. Editor Storke's statement of principles said: "We believe... that traitors should be dealt with by the courts, not by vigilante groups."

John Birch had nothing to do with the group which bears his name. He was a young fundamentalist Baptist missionary from Georgia.

He served as an intelligence officer in China during World War II and was killed 10 days after V-J Day by Chinese Communists. He was 27 when he died.

FIRST CASUALTY IN THIRD WAR

Robert Welch never heard of Birch until after his death, but he has researched and written his life story.

Welch has memorialized Birch as "probably the first American casualty in that Third World War, between Communists and the ever-shrinking 'free world,' which is still being waged against us."

When he came to found a Communist-fighting organization, he called it the John Birch Society.

In Birch's name, Society members are asked to write letters to Congressmen and others, operate in "front" organizations and through community groups such as PTAs and Chambers of Commerce to push campaigns conceived by Welch as anti-Communist.

These include movements to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren, to repeal the income tax law, to rout the social gospel from the churches, to oppose the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance, foreign aid, the United Nations an cultural, or any other, exchanges with Russia.

ATTENDED HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

At her farm home near Macon, Ga., Birch's mother, Mrs. George S. Birch, said she and her husband are "heartily in accord" with Welch's organization. "And we are proud for it to bear our son's name."

Welch also is a native Southerner, born in North Carolina, Dec. 1, 1899. He was reared in what he now calls "the intellectually restricting bonds of the unusually

narrow Southern Baptist fundamentalism."

He spent four years at the University of North Carolina, two at the Naval Academy and two at Harvard Law School before going into the candy business.

He was for years vice president of the James O. Welch Company, headed by his brother, which has factories in Massachusetts and in Los Angeles.

In his own words—a biographical sketch Welch wrote in the third person for society members—he "has one wife, two sons, a golden retriever dog, and fourteen golf clubs—none of which he understands, but all of which he loves."

He is an affable man who smiles easily and exhibits in his writings a sense of humor, love of poetry and wide knowledge of history and literature.

He was a director of the National Association of Manufacturers for seven years, serving also as a vice president of the organization. Three former presidents of the NAM are or have been on the Birch Society's council.

On Jan. 1, 1957, his biography says, he "gave up most of his business responsibilities—and most of his income—in order to devote practically all of his time and energy to the anti-Communist cause."

The John Birch Society was founded almost two years later, on Dec. 9, 1956, at Indianapolis, after Welch delivered a two-day speech to 11 men he had invited to hear it.

That speech is today the "Blue Book" of the society, the official statement of its aims and methods. It is supplemented by monthly bulletins to members and the magazine "American Opinion," which Welch founded before the society and of which he is editor.

The message and aim is: "Less government, more responsibility and a better world."

Welch "quite literally wants to repeal the 20th century. But unlike many who share this desire, either politically or nostalgically, he views its trend toward 'collectivism' not simply as a mistake but as a sinister conspiracy.

He sees the "conspiracy" as a move to change the economic and political structure of the United States so that this nation can be merged with the Soviet Union without a fight.

"You have only a few more years," he told his listeners at Indianapolis. "We are living... in such a fool's paradise as the people of China lived in 20 years ago!"

"The danger is almost entirely internal," Welch said, "from Communist influences right in our

midst and treason right in our government."

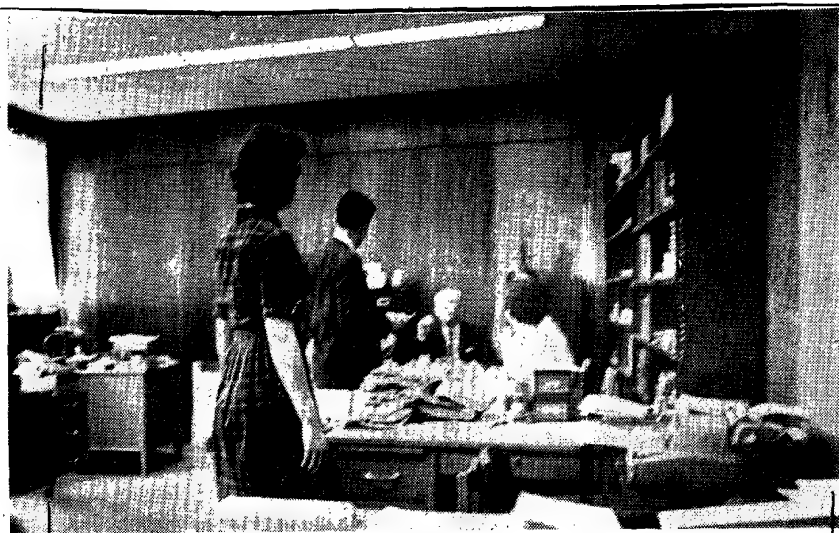
The idea that the nation must mobilize its resources to combat the external danger of Soviet military might and Sputnik supremacy is, in Welch's view, a part of the Communist plot.

"In other words, under the guise of fighting Communism, we are being stampeded into the biggest jump ever toward, and perhaps the final jump right into, socialism and then the Communist camp."

Welch would repeal virtually all the social and economic legislation of the last 30 years.

The greatest enemy of man is, and always has been, government," he said.

TOMORROW: The society's doctrine and membership.



UNIDENTIFIED members of John Birch Society are shown inside one of rooms that make up semi-secret society's national headquarters on Concord Ave., Belmont.

Strength Not Great But ---

Birch Movement

By Max Lerner

Real Danger

(Hear Prof. Lerner in "The Age of Overkill" on Ch. 2 Fridays at 8:30 or Sundays at 1 p.m.)

A FRIEND whose judgments of events are usually sharp as well as cool asked me whether we were not overestimating the strength and danger of the John Birch Society movement. My answer was that the strength is not yet great but the danger is real.

Actually many people still do not know about the movement organized by Robert Welch, of Belmont, Mass., which has struck deeper roots on the Pacific Coast, in the Middle West, and in Texas than it has as yet in the East.

Its avowed intent is to fight communism, as was the avowed intent once of a man called McCarthy. But McCarthy was a monument of judgment compared to the Birchers, or Welchers, who count Eisenhower, Warren and Dulles among the supporters or dupes of communism.

Despite the fact that communism is weaker in America than in any modern industrial country, it plays up the danger of Communist subversion from

within rather than the real and menacing danger of Russian imperialist expansion from without.

By missing the real danger of America, and spreading fear and suspicion within the nation, it weakens American democracy in its test of survival against a tough and resourceful enemy.

There was always a hard core of fanaticism in the McCarthy movement which did not disappear with its fall. That hard core is now reasserting itself, especially in those states where the soil and climate of opinion favor the notion that the political, religious, and intellectual leaders of the nation in both parties are under a Communist

Boston American, Boston, Mass.
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.
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Christian Science Monitor, Boston, Mass.
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

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Edition: LATE STAR FINAL
Author: MAX LERNER
Editor: HAROLD CLANCY
Title: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

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MAR 21 1961	
FBI - BOSTON	



WELCH

Edmund Brown has asked the state attorney general to make an inquiry into what makes the group tick.

The conservatives in California show an equal awareness of its danger not only to the nation as a whole but to their own conservative doctrine.

The Los Angeles Times, whose true-blue brand of conservative Republican loyalties is scarcely open to question, has run a series of articles on the Birchers, and an editorial arguing soberly but firmly that this is not conservative doctrine but is destructive of it. Richard

Nixon wrote a letter supporting the newspaper's stand.

But here the comparison with the earlier movement ends. McCarthy fed on publicity, while until now Welch seems to have avoided it. McCarthy had a Senate committee to work with whose hearings gave him national headlines, but Welch has had to rely on his organizing skills across the country.

No one can say now whether

Welch hopes some day to run America in his own way, nor am I interested in guessing. I do know that if his movement rolls up strength, it will mean that the self-appointed vigilantes of the thought police will refuse teachers, preachers and writers the credentials of their own version of Americanism.

The first step in such a movement is to tell the people of each community whom they cannot listen to or read. The next step will be to tell them whom they can listen to and read.

I don't believe that the temper of the nation is ready to accept this easily.

In California, which is one of the centers of strength of Welchism, the students of the University of California at Santa Barbara have been enrolled in cells for keeping a watch over the faculty and checking up on their "loyalty."

Fortunately Chancellor Samuel B. Gould has expressed his sense of outrage at this poison-
~~ing of college atmosphere.~~ Gov.

Religious leaders are among those whom the Birchers have tried to attack and smear. Among them is Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, head of the United Presbyterian Church in the U. S., who has openly called the Birch Society's methods "Fascist."

The last word should be his: "Don't let your Americanism and your Presbyterianism," he has told the members of his church, "be corrupted by those who would substitute a Fuehrer principle for our free society."

Semi-Secret Group Fights Communism But With Big How?

(The methods of the John Birch Society in fighting Communism have stirred controversy in many U.S. cities. A UPI special reporting team was assigned to investigate its purposes, operations and opposition.

(This is the first of three articles.)

By BARBARA BUNDSCHU
United Press International

Residents of Santa Barbara, Calif., were in for a surprise when they stepped out into the bright and blowy morning of Feb. 26 to pick up their Sunday newspapers. In that quiet and beautiful city of about 60,000, a respected fellow citizen had discovered what he felt was an outrage.

"The editor and publisher of the News-Press is in his 85th year," began a two-column editorial on the front page.

"His entire life has been spent in this community... he lived when conditions were rugged. When West was West and men were men. He lived during periods when if a man or a group of men openly by word of

mouth, or the printed word, called our President... and others at the head of our government, traitors, they were made to answer. Such slanders often called for a visit from a courageous and irate group which brought with them a barrel of tar and a few feathers..."

BIRCH SOCIETY
Page Twelve

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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Boston American, Boston, Mass.
X Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.
Christian Science Monitor,
Boston, Mass.
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 3-29-61
Edition: SPORTS FINAL NEWS
Author: BARBARA BUNDSCHU
Editor: VICTOR O. JONES
Title:

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MAR 2 1961

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Headquarters Churns Controversy

On a Quiet Suburban Avenue

Belmont Man's Society Stirs U.S. Furor



ON A QUIET STREET in Belmont, opposite the town swimming and play area, is the national headquarters of the John Birch Society, a semi-secret group dedicated to exterminating communism, but whose extreme methods have provoked controversy in many United States cities.

FOUNDER AND LEADER of the organization is Robert H. W. Welch Jr. (left). Welch caused great indignation when he branded the then President Eisenhower a Communist dupe. One of the society's goals is to impeach Chief Justice Warren.



(Globe Photo by Jack O'Connell)

"BIRCH SOCIETY"

Continued from the First Page

Thomas More Storke, rancher and citrus grower, owner of a newspaper since 1900, briefly by interim a U.S. senator, regent of the University of California, was taking a stand against the John Birch Society and its founder.

and founder, Robert H. W. Welch Jr. of Belmont, Mass.

Welch, 61, retired from a candy firm four years ago to devote his life to fighting communism. What bothered Storke was the way Welch was fighting it.

In a letter written before he set up the society late in 1958 and still in limited circulation, Welch told friends

that President Eisenhower, his brother, Dr. Milton Eisenhower, the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and his brother, Allen Dulles, then and now head of the Central Intelligence Agency, were members of the Communist underground.

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EDITOR DARES SOCIETY TO SUE

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Exposure of such persons, even through "means of society" techniques, Welch said, is one of the most effective means of shocking the American people awake in time to save themselves from communism. He also advises members to set up front groups, to infiltrate community organizations and to engage in directed letter writing to promote specific campaigns of his ultra-conservative society.

It was to protest what these tactics were doing to Santa Barbara that editor Storke raised his editorial voice.

"The News-Press condemns the tactics that have brought anonymous telephone calls of denunciation to Santa Barbarans in recent weeks from members of the John Birch Society or their sympathizers," Storke's editorial said.

"The News-Press condemns the pressures on wealthy residents who fear and abhor communism, to contribute money to an organization whose leader has said that for reasons you will understand, there can be no accounting of funds."

"The John Birch Society already has done a grave disservice to Santa Barbara by arousing suspicions and a mutual distrust among men of good will. The organization's adherents, sincere in their opposition to communism, do not seem to understand the dangers of the totalitarian dynamite with which they are tampering.

"The News-Press challenges them: Come up from underground."

"And if they believe that in being challenged they have grounds for suit—let them sue. The News-Press would welcome a suit as a means of shedding more light on the John Birch Society."

WELCH NOT SURE OF DEMOCRACY

What is the real nature of this relatively new group on the American political scene? Political scientists would classify it as ultra-conservative. It is and will remain a subject of controversy, however, over whether its tactics are compatible with American democratic principles as they are most popularly understood.

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By Welch's political standards, Dwight Eisenhower is a Communist, and so are many others in high government places, past and present. These are standards not everyone accepts. The U.S. Senate on March 8 heard Sen. Milton R. Young, North Dakota Republican, declare that Welch's accusations against Eisenhower and others had gone "beyond anything the late Joe McCarthy ever thought of." On the other hand, a Senate Internal Affairs subcommittee has described Welch's John Birch Society as a "patriotic organization." And because there is evidence to support the society's claim that it is growing, the controversy around it is also bound to grow in the months ahead.

CONTROVERSY SPREADS FAR

Santa Barbara was not the first or the last—although it would seem among the most unlikely—community to have been torn by the society's activities nor to have seen it assailed by its newspapers. The organization has become embroiled in controversy in many states, including Wisconsin, Texas, Ohio, Kansas, California and North Dakota.

The amount of secrecy surrounding its operations has varied considerably from community to community, and Welch has given up his fight to avoid publicity about the group.

At issue between the society and many who might otherwise share Welch's conservative political and economic views is his persistent reasoning that everything he personally considers wrong is a Communist plot.

At issue between the society and those who condemn it is the tendency of its activities to suppress, if not the right, at least the respectability of, dissent.

This question has split the Supreme Court itself in decisions which have qualified the First Amendment rights of witnesses before the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

Inhibition of free speech caused by such private organizations as the Birch Society, have had no judicial rule. Editor Storke's statement of principles, said: "We believe . . . that traitors should be dealt with by the courts, not by vigilante groups."

BIRCH KILLED BY CHINA REDS

John Birch had nothing to do with the group which bears his name. He was a young Fundamentalist Baptist missionary from Georgia, who served as an intelligence officer in China during World War II, and was killed 10 days after V.J. Day by Chinese Communists. He was 27 when he died.

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tax law to rout the social gospel from the churches, to oppose the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance, foreign aid, the United Nations and cultural, or any other, exchanges with Russia.

At her farm home near Macon, Ga., Birch's mother, Mrs. George Birch, said she and her husband are "heartily in accord" with Welch's organization and we are proud for it to be "our son's name."

Welch quite literally wants to repeal the 20th century. But unlike many who share this desire, either politically or nostalgically, he views its trend toward "collectivism" not simply as a mistake but as a sinister conspiracy to change the economic and political structure of the United States so that this nation can be merged with the Soviet Union without a fight.

"You have only a few more years," he told his listeners at Indianapolis. "We are living in a fool's paradise as the people of China lived in 20 years ago."

"The danger is almost tentatively internal," Welch said, "from Communist influences right in our midst and treason right in our government."

The idea that the nation must mobilize its resources to combat the external danger of Soviet military might and Sputnik supremacy is, in Welch's view, a part of the Communist plot. "In other words under the guise of fighting communism, we are being stampeded into the biggest jump ever towards, and perhaps the final jump right into, socialism and then the Communist camp."

WOULD REPEAL SOCIAL MEASURES

Welch would repeal virtually all of the social and economic legislation of the last 30 years.

He warned that communism is being slipped over on the American people so gradually and insidiously that before long they can no longer resist the Communist conspiracy as free citizens, but can resist the Communist tyranny only by themselves becoming conspirators against established government.

NEXT—The Society's Doctrine and Membership

Welch Busy For Month, Press Told

By JEROME SULLIVAN

The reporter entered the red brick building at 395 Concord av., Belmont, walked down a narrow corridor and poked his head through the open door of a large brightly lighted office.

A young lady arose from her desk and said, "Can I help you?"

"Yes, could I see Mr. Welch, please?"

The lady asked the name and then said, "I'm sorry, but Mr. Welch is very busy."

"How long do you suppose he'll be tied up," asked the reporter.

"At least a month," she said.

WELCH

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Continued from the First Page

Staggered, the reporter reflected a second, and then remarked, "Lady, no one can be that busy."

"Well, he is," she said. "And we are."

Then she informed the caller that neither Mr. Welch nor she nor anyone else in the office had any statement to make to the press, nor was Mr. Welch available for any interview.

The modern, two-story red-brick building on tree-lined Concord av., next to the Belmont Post Office, houses the headquarters of the John Birch Society—a nationwide organization that is dedicated to the extermination of the Communist conspiracy by any and all methods.

It's a semi-secret organization that doesn't want any notoriety, but it can't seem to help getting it.

Mr. Welch is Robert H. W. Welch Jr., 61-year-old founder and head man of the John Birch Society, who several years ago labeled President Eisenhower and his brother, Milton, agents of the Communist Party.

Born on a North Carolina farm, Welch was educated at the University of North Carolina, the U.S. Naval Academy and Harvard Law School.

He came to Boston in 1919, married three years later and has two grown sons. He has lived for most of the past 40 years in Greater Boston and make his home now in Belmont.

In his own words—a biographical sketch Welch wrote in the third person for society members—he "has one wife, two sons, a Golden Retriever dog, and fourteen golf clubs—none of which he understands but all of which he loves."

He is an affable man who smiles easily and exhibits in his writings a sense of humor, love of poetry and wide knowledge of history and literature.

Throughout the greater part of his adult life he has been in the candy manufacturing business, serving for a number of years as vice president in charge of sales and advertising of the James O. Welch Co., which is headed by his brother and has factories in Cambridge and Los Angeles.

He gave up his business life about four years ago to devote all of his time to the fight against Communism.

While with the Welch Co. he was for several years a director of the National Assn. of Manufacturers.

In 1950 he ran for the G.O.P. nomination for lieutenant governor of Massachusetts and finished second in a rather bulky field.

When he announced his candidacy he sent out a letter to "fellow citizens of Massachusetts" in which he said, in part:

"The America into which you and I were born, for all its imperfections, was by far the best environment for human life that our poor fumbling race has ever achieved . . . but everything which has made America envied by the rest of the world we are now throwing away for a phony security and a creeping collectivism."

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He said further that "the majority are being talked into swapping solid heirlooms of freedom for cheaply veneered pieces of shoddy security, largely by slick operators who profit by the deals. . . . I believe that with a rebirth of effort it is still possible to make the American people see what is happening, and I want to make whatever personal contribution I can to such an effort."

The aims of Welch's John Birch Society are to eradicate Communism and strive for a world with less government because "government is, and always has been, the greatest enemy of man."

These aims and the methods of accomplishment are found in the 180-page "Blue Book" of the Society, a document which contains the two-day speech delivered by Welch in Indianapolis in December, 1958, when he founded the organization.

The Society also sends out monthly bulletins to its members. Robert Welch edits a monthly magazine called "American Opinion" which was founded before the Society.

The Belmont office is the headquarters of "American Opinion."

Belmont Man's Anti-Red Birch Society Stirs Up Protests

(The methods of the John Birch Society in fighting Communism have stirred controversy in many U.S. cities. A UPI special reporting team was assigned to investigate its purposes, operations and opposition. This is the first of three articles.)

By **BARBARA BUNDSCHU**
(United Press International)
Residents of Santa Barbara, Calif. were in for a surprise when they stepped out into the bright and cloudy morning of Feb. 26 to pick up their Sunday newspapers. In that quiet and beautiful city of about 60,000, a respected fellow citizen had discovered what he felt was an outrage.

"The editor and publisher of the News-Press is in his 85th year," began a two-column editorial on the front page.

"His entire life has been spent in this community . . . he lived when conditions were rugged. When West was West and men were men. He lived difficult periods when if a man or a group of men openly by word of mouth, or the printed word, called our President . . . and others at the head of our

government, traitors, they were made to answer. Such slanders often called for a visit from a courageous and irate group which brought with them a barrel of tar and a few feathers . . ."

Thomas More Storke, rancher and citrus grower, owner of a newspaper since 1900, briefly by interim a U.S. senator, regent of the University of California, was taking a stand against the John Birch Society and its founder and leader, Robert H. W. Welch Jr. of Belmont, Mass. Welch, 61, retired from a candy firm four years ago to devote his life to fighting communism. What bothered Storke was the way Welch was fighting it. In a letter written before

he set up the society late in 1958 and still in limited circulation, Welch told friends that President Eisenhower, his brother, Dr. Milton Eisenhower, the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and his brother, Allen Dulles, then and now head of the Central Intelligence Agency, were members of the Communist underground.

**EDITOR DARES
SOCIETY TO SUE**

"The secret Communist looks and acts just like anybody else, only more so," Welch had instructed them in the society's "Blue Book." He could be anybody you know. In fact, Welch said, one of his prime suspects is "one of the nicest men you ever met. Most of them are."

Exposure of such persons, even through "mean and dirty" techniques, Welch said, is one of the most effective means of shocking the American people awake in time to save themselves from communism. He also advises members to set up

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front groups, to infiltrate community organizations and to engage in directed letter writing to promote specific campaigns of his ultra-conservative society.

It was to protest what these tactics were doing to Santa Barbara that editor Storke raised his editorial voice.

WELCH NOT SURE OF DEMOCRACY

What is the real nature of this relatively new group on the American political scene? Political scientists would classify it as ultra-conservative. It is and will remain a subject of controversy, however, over whether its tactics are compatible with American democratic principles as they are most popularly understood.

It is, in itself, an authoritarian society. (Editor Storke's adjective was "totalitarian"). Welch does not say the United States should have a similarly authoritarian form of government.

But he is far from completely sold on the form we now have. And as for the political concept of a democracy, he regards it frankly as a "weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud."

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Call Warren Red Dupe For Civil Rights Stand

Birch Society Would Impeach Chief Justice

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By BARBARA BUNDSCHU
United Press International

At the start of 1961 the John Birch Society organized one to 100 chapters in each of 34 states and the District of Columbia, according to its founder and leader, Robert Welch of Belmont, Mass.



WELCH

"A Republican form of government or of organization has many attractions and advantages, under certain favorable conditions. But under less happy circumstances it lends itself too readily to infiltration, distortion and disruption. And Democracy, of course, in government or organization ... is merely a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud ...

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(Still to be organized: Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont).

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JOHN BIRCH
Page Thirteen



CIVIL RIGHTS decisions of Chief Justice Earl Warren have outraged members of the John Birch Society.

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KEEPS BELMONT POSTMAN BUSY

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There are 28 full-time employees at headquarters and the society is reported to be the largest single source of revenue for the Belmont post office, next door.

Another 35 salaried persons work around the country as coordinators of member groups and an additional 100 persons work full or almost full time as volunteers.

Welch frankly has borrowed the Communist technique of setting up "front" groups for specific purposes. He acknowledged that another technique he advocates—the use of loaded questions to smear a suspect he can't prove is a Communist—is "mean and dirty."

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Matthews is an associate editor of Welch's "American Opinion" as well as the standard by which he checks his nose for Communists. He resigned as chief investigator to Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy's Senate committee in 1953 after appearance in "The American Mercury" of Matthews' article stating that clergymen were "the largest single group supporting the Communist apparatus" in this country.

SAYS POT BOILS AGAINST WARREN

The "most important activity" of the John Birch Society at the moment is its campaign to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren.

In the view of Welch, the Supreme Court's school decision and all the racial troubles in the South have been brought about by Communists to foment civil war. "Civil rights" is a Communist slogan, "an exact parallel to the slogan of 'agrarian reform' which was used in China," he has told members.

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SOME IN CONGRESS ENDORSE GROUP

Republican whip Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel of California, who said he had received about 200 such letters since October, described the campaign as "contemplative and vicious."

"One may, if he chooses, disagree on occasion with decisions of the Supreme Court, the votes of members of Congress, or on the position which the American President takes," Kuchel said. "That is part of our right of free speech. But to attempt to heap slime and abuse on a public figure poses an extremely dangerous problem for our government in this country."

Rep. Ken Hechler (D-W. Va.) told the House on March 13 that the desks of many of its members "have been flooded for the past few weeks by a great deal of junk mail which maliciously and unfairly reflects on the integrity of our great chief justice of the United States, Earl Warren."

Rep. Edgar W. Hiestand, (R-Calif.), is listed by the society as a member of its "committee of endorsers." Hiestand said he has been a member of the society for several years.

"It is a society of individuals dedicated to fighting communism," Hiestand said. "They make up their own minds. They are violently anti-communist. That is the one thing we have in common."

Rep. Gordon Scherer, (R-Ohio), a member of the House Un-American Activities Committee, also listed as an endorser, said he was not a member of the society, but "I look with favor on it."

'PATRIOTIC' SAYS EASTLAND LETTER

The Senate Internal Security subcommittee is replying to inquiries with a form letter over the signature of its chairman, Sen. James O. Eastland, D-Miss. It reads: "The John Birch Society, about which you asked, is known to be a organization officially. We are happy to state that it seems to be from our records, a patriotic organization. Very truly yours

"All senators are not so sure. Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, D-Mont., told the Senate: "something ought to be done to lay the facts before the American people, so they can judge this organization for what it is."

Congress was stirred to protest by the John Birch Society's campaign against Chief Justice Warren. But it is the society's attack on the nation's churches that apparently has brought it to the attention of more communities—and has more bitterly divided those communities—than any of its other activities.

It is an attack that has been

made for years by some religious fundamentalists and economic conservatives who see as both heresy and communism the preaching of a "social gospel" which attempts to apply biblical teachings to current secular and political problems.

The people of Arizona are getting two barrels at the moment. It is one of the Birch Society's "biggest" states. And it is receiving similarly concentrated attention from the American Council of Christian Churches, a fundamentalist group has been waging a hot war of words for many years against the larger National Council of Churches.

The division has been intensified by controversy over the House Committee on Un-American Activities' motion picture, "Operation Abolition," which is being promoted by the Birch Society, among many others, and which the National Council of Churches, also among others, has recommended not be shown without presentation of serious questions about its accuracy.

ANTI-LABOR PUSH IN KANSAS

At Amarillo, Tex., Brig Gen William L. Lee, retired commander of the Amarillo Air Force Base, is head of the local Birch organization. He denied the society has anything to do with the rumored circulation of a list charging five prominent local men are Communists.

At Wichita, Kans., the society has moved to battle in policy matters in P.T.A.s, the library and college. According to George H. Lewis, assistant professor of economics at the University of Wichita, they "virtually control the Wichita Chamber of Commerce and seem to have a dominant influence in the state chamber organization."

"One of their major objectives in the state is to destroy collective bargaining. They are preparing to push through some vicious anti-labor legis-

lation during the next session."

Members of the society from coast to coast have professed themselves undisturbed by Welch's society charge that President Eisenhower was not a dupe but a communist.

Spruille Braden, former U.S. ambassador and a member of the society's council, said he didn't agree with the charge but that it in no way led him

to question Welch's judgment on other matters.

"He may exaggerate sometimes," Braden said of Welch. "When you're in a barroom brawl, who holds are barred. You do it fight by the Marquis of Queensbury rules."

NEXT—Welch gives his opinion of Eisenhower, Taft, MacArthur and Goldwater; action of the opposition.



ALTER EGO of Birch Society founder Robert Welch is J. B. Matthews (above), one-time chief investigator of Sen. Joe McCarthy's subcommittee.

Birch Society Borrows Red Tactics

Democracy 'A Fraud': Welch

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BIRCH

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FEARS THEY WOULD LOSE THEIR JOBS

"If it came along, they would probably be thrown out of their jobs. For that reason, the thing has been kept pretty quiet. There are no real millionaires in Dallas in it, as far as I know."

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"I would like to know who is paying for all these mimeographed and solicited letters and cards . . ."

Rep. Edgar A. Hiestand (R-Calif.) is listed in the society as a member of its "committee of endorsers." Hiestand said he has been a member of the society for several years.

"It is a society of individuals dedicated to fighting Communism," Hiestand told United Press International. "They make up their own minds. They are violently anti-Communist. That is the one thing we have in common."

Hiestand said a lot of prominent people have been misled by misinformation and he is considering putting into the record a "well-documented" reply to charges against the organization.

NOT A MEMBER BUT FAVORS IT

Rep. Gordon Scherer (R-Ohio), a member of the House Un-American Activities Committee, also listed as an endorser, said he was not a member of the society, but "I look with favor on it."

The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee is replying to inquiries with a form letter over the signature of its chairman, Sen. James O. Eastland (D-Miss). It reads: "The John Birch Society, about which you asked, is known to be a conservative anti-Communist organization officially. We are happy to state that it seems to be, from our records, a patriotic organization. Very truly yours. . . ."

All senators are not so sure. Senate majority leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont) told the Senate: "Something ought to be done to lay the facts before the American people so they can judge this organization for what it is."

In California, Gov. Edmund G. Brown said on March 21 that he had asked State Atty. Gen. Stan-

ley Mosk to look into the organization and report to him.

"Unless they violate a law, they have a right to speak," Brown said.

Congress was stirred to protest by the John Birch Society's campaign against Chief Justice Warren. But it is the society's attack on the nation's churches that apparently has brought it to the attention of more communities—and has more bitterly divided those communities—than any of its other activities.

PEOPLE OF ARIZONA

GETTING TWO BARRELS

It is an attack that has been made for years by some religious fundamentalists and economic conservatives who see as both heresy and Communism the preaching of a "social gospel" which attempts to apply Biblical teachings to current secular and political problems.

The people of Arizona are getting two barrels at the moment. It is one of the Birch Society's "biggest" states. And it is receiving similarly concentrated attention from the American Council of Christian Churches, a fundamentalist group which has been waging a hot war of words for many years against the larger National Council of Churches.

The division has been rekindled by controversy over the House Committee on Un-American Activities' motion picture, "Operation Abolition," which is being promoted by the Birch Society, among many

others. The National Council of Churches, also among others, has recommended the picture not be shown without presentation of serious questions about its accuracy.

The Rev. Carl McIntire, a defrocked Presbyterian minister who is a spokesman for the American Council, devoted his nation-wide radio program on two successive weeks to the situation in Phoenix, replying to a defense of the National Council issued by 122 Phoenix clergymen.

In Santa Barbara, Calif., members of the First Presbyterian Church received through the mail a Birch Society "questionnaire" attacking its own church leadership and that of the National Council.

Rev. Eugene Carson Blake, stated clerk of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. and a former National Council president, flew to Santa Barbara to accuse the Birch Society in a sermon; his text: "Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness. . . ."

"If you let these propagandists have their way they will divide this church right down the middle between Communists and Fascists, labeling each other, labeling each other, and

disturbing each other," Blake said.

At Amarillo, Tex., Brig. Gen. William L. Lee, retired commander of the Amarillo Air Force Base, is head of the local Birch organization. He denied the society has anything to do with the rumored circulation of a list charging five prominent local men are Communists.

Lee said there are no Communists in Amarillo. But he acknowledged the society is stirring up friction in local churches.

FEAR SPLIT INTO WARRING CAMPS

"We have documented proof that the National Council has been infiltrated by Communists and some of these ministers just won't listen to us," Lee said. "Until we can convince them the National Council has some Communist followers in it, there is going to be some friction."

At Wichita, Kans., the society has moved to battle in policy matters in PTAs, the library and college. According to George H. Lewis, assistant professor of economics at the University of Wichita and director of the Kansas Council for Industrial Peace, they "virtually control the Wichita Chamber of Commerce and seem to have a dominant influence in the state chamber organization."

Members of the society from coast to coast have professed themselves undisturbed by Welch's pre-society charge that President Eisenhower was not a dupe but a Communist.

NO HOLDS BARRED IN BARROOM BRAWL

"If he (Eisenhower) is one, he doesn't know it," said a Santa Barbara woman.

Spruille E. Eden, former U. S. ambassador and a member of the society council, said he didn't agree with the charge, but that it in no way led him to question Welch's judgment on other matters.

"He must exaggerate sometimes," Eden said of Welch. "When you're in a barroom brawl, no holds are barred. You don't fight by the Marquis of Queensbury rules."

(Tomorrow: Welch gives his opinion of Eisenhower, Taft, Macmillan and Goldwater; action of the association.)



ROBERT WELCH

**The Birch
Society:
A Boon...
Or Threat?**

BS-8 Revised (6-17-59)

... But R.I. Not One of Them

John Birch Society Has Branches in 34 States

By BARBARA BUNDSCHU
United Press International

At the start of 1961 the John Birch Society had organized one to 100 chapters in each of 34 states and the District of Columbia, according to its founder, Robert Welch of Massachusetts.

(Still to be organized: Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah and Vermont).

"The John Birch Society is to be a monolithic body," Mr. Welch said in a blue book of the organization's doctrine.

"A Republican form of government or of organization has many attractions and advantages, under certain favorable conditions. But under less happy circumstances it lends itself too readily to infiltration, distortion and disruption. And democracy, of course, in government or organization . . . is merely a deceptive phrase. A weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud. . . ."

"The John Birch Society will operate under completely authoritative control at all levels. . . . No collection of debating societies is ever going to stop the Communist conspiracy."

He hoped for one million dedicated members to fight the forces of evil with "evangelical fervor."

Paul H. Talbert, Los Angeles insurance executive who is one of the society's council members, estimated recently that it might have 100,000 members by the end of 1961, its third year.

Mr. Welch said he wanted to raise a million dollars from sources other than dues during the society's first year—and

even that amount is an awfully small drop in the bucket, against what either the direct Communist propagandists or the Reutherite labor bosses are spending against us."

There is no public accounting of either money or membership. Dues are \$24 a year for men and \$12 for women; life memberships are \$1,000, either sex. Appeals for additional voluntary contributions accompany virtually all mailings to members. Mr. Welch has said he draws no salary. There are 28 full-time employees at headquarters and the society is reported to be the largest single source of revenue for the Belmont, Mass., Post Office next door.

Another 35 salaried persons work around the country as coordinators of member groups, and an additional 100 persons work full or almost full time as volunteers.

Mr. Welch frankly has borrowed the Communist technique of setting up "front" groups for specific purposes. He acknowledged that another technique he advocates—the use of loaded questions to smear a suspect he can't prove is a Communist—is "mean and dirty."

Chapters operate at widely different levels of secrecy. In North Dakota, meetings are announced on local radio stations and everybody's welcome. The North Dakota organization, with about 400 members in 19 chapters, was active in a proposal to outlaw the federal income tax which was approved by the state's lower house but killed in the state senate.

In Dallas, Tex., a 32-year-old businessman member of the society wouldn't give his own name for publication, however, and explained: "Most of our

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Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.
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members in Dallas are little ~~people~~, just like I am. Most of these folks could not take a sustained smear attack. If it came along, they would probably be thrown out of their jobs. For that reason, the thing has been kept pretty quiet. There are no real millionaires in Dallas in it as far as I know."

He estimated there were 20 chapters in Dallas and said he'd heard there were 100 in Houston. Chapters are generally made up of 20 members.

There is no rule of thumb in Mr. Welch's book for members to determine on their own who is or who isn't a Communist, or Communist dupe.

"There are ways of sizing up both individuals and organizations in this battle which come only with experience, a knowledge of the inter-locking pieces and personalities and a feel for the way the Communists work," says the "Blue Book."

"And while of course I can make mistakes too, I know from the way my opinion of various characters, formed independently, has then proved to coincide with the opinion of J. B. Matthews . . . that I have a fairly sensitive and accurate nose in this area . . . so we do not intend to be frustrated by indecisions of this nature."

Mr. Matthews is an associate editor of Mr. Welch's "American Opinion" as well as the standard by which he checks his nose for Communists. He resigned as chief investigator to Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy's Senate committee in 1953 after appearance in "The American Mercury" of Mr. Matthews' article stating that clergymen were ~~the~~ largest single group supporting the Communist apparatus" in this country.

Drive to Impeach Chief Justice

The "most important activity" of the John Birch Society at the moment is its campaign to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren.

In the view of the society's founder and leader, the Supreme Court's school decision and all the racial troubles in the South have been brought about by Communists to foment civil war. "Civil rights" is a Communist slogan, "an exact parallel to the slogan of 'agrarian reform' which they used in China," Mr. Welch has told members.

In his bulletin for March he urged them to write "more letters to the same congressmen. . . . The same letters to more congressmen" and to the newspapers to prepare the way for undisclosed "specific actions" to come.

"There is plenty of evidence that we already have the pot of the Warren impeachment boiling," he said. "What we need now, by adding more fuel and blowing on the fire, is to give that pot a head of steam that will be looked at askance by anybody who might want to sit on the lid. . . ."

Congressmen, recently made aware of Mr. Welch's old accusation that former President Eisenhower was a Communist, are already looking askance at what they describe variously as a "trickle" or a "flood" of "impeach Warren" mail.

Republican whip Sen. Thomas

H. Kuchel of California, who said he had received about 200 such letters since October, described the campaign as "contemptible and vicious."

Rep. Ken Hechler, D-WVa., told the House on March 13 that the desks of many of its members "have been flooded for the past few weeks by a great deal of junk mail which maliciously and unfairly reflects on the integrity of our great chief justice of the United States, Earl Warren."

Rep. Edgar W. Hiestand, R-Calif, is listed by the society as a member of its "committee of endorsers." Mr. Hiestand said he has been a member of the society for several years.

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All senators are not so sure. In California, Gov. Edmund G. Brown said on March 21 that he had asked state Attorney General Stanley Mosk to look into the organization and report to him.

"Unless they violate a law, they have a right to speak," Governor Brown said.

Mr. Welch telegraphed Governor Brown the following day demanding a full-dress investigation by the state senate's un-American activities committee and promising "a dozen or a hundred or a thousand of our members in California will gladly testify."

Paul H. Taft, Los Angeles insurance man who is a member of the society's council, said that if any members plead the fifth amendment "we would just love to find out just who these infiltrators are so that we can get rid of them."

Mr. Talbert said, "We all believe in loyalty oaths, preservation of the Constitution, amendment of the investigative power of the FBI and any other government committee for the purpose of investigating subversive . . .

"What is happening to cause supposedly reputable newspapers to refer to us as Fascists, neo-Fascists, Silver Shirts, Red Shirts, Black Shirts, subversives, and even to compare us with the Ku Klux Klan?"

Attack on Churches Divides People

Congress was stirred to protest by the John Birch Society's campaign against Chief Justice Warren. But it is the society's attack on the nation's churches that apparently has brought it to the attention of more communities—and has more bitterly divided those communities—than any of its other activities.

It is an attack that has been made for years by some religious fundamentalists and economic conservatives who see as both heresy and communism the preaching of a "social gospel" which attempts to apply Biblical teachings to current secular and political problems.

The people of Arizona are getting two barrels at the moment. It is one of the Birch society's "biggest" states. And it is receiving similarly concentrated attention from the American Council of Christian Churches, a fundamentalist group which

has been waging a hot war of words for many years against the larger National Council of Churches. The division has been intensified by controversy over the House committee on un-American activities' motion picture, "Operation Abolition," which is being promoted by the Birch Society, among many others, and which the National Council of Churches, also among others, has recommended not be shown without presentation of serious questions about its accuracy.

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"If you let these propagandists have their way they will divide this church right down the middle between Communists and Fascists hating each other, labeling each other and distrusting each other," Mr. Blake said.

At Amarillo, Tex., Brig. Gen. William L. Lee, retired com-

mander of the Amarillo Air Force Base, is head of the local Birch organization.

General Lee said there are no Communists in Amarillo. But he acknowledged that the society is stirring up friction in local churches.

"We have documented proof that the National Council has been infiltrated by Communists and some of these ministers just won't listen to us," General Lee said. "Until we can convince them that the National Council has some Communist followers in it there is going to be some friction."

The Amarillo group has been less successful in another campaign. The public library refused to yield to its demand that it call off a "great decisions" discussion series sponsored by the 12-year-old Foreign Policy Association.

At Wichita, Kan., the society has moved its battle in policy matters in RTAs, the library and college. According to George H. Lewis, assistant professor of economics at the University of Wichita and director of the Kansas Council for Industrial Peace, they "virtually control the Wichita Chamber of Commerce and seem to have a dominant influence in the state chamber organization."

"One of their major objectives in the state is to destroy collective bargaining. They are preparing to push through some vicious anti-labor legislation during the next session."

Members of the society from coast to coast have professed themselves undisturbed by Mr. Welch's pre-society charge that

President Eisenhower was not a dupe but a communist.

"If he (Mr. Eisenhower) is one, he doesn't know it," said a Santa Barbara woman.

Spruille Braden, former U.S. ambassador and a member of the society's council, said he didn't agree with the charge but that it in no way led him to question Mr. Welch's judgment on other matters.

Continued Tomorrow
In The Evening Bulletin

Says It's Only Way to Save U.S.

'Dirty' Techniques OK In Birch Society Bible

By BARBARA BUNDSCHU
United Press International

Residents of Santa Barbara, Calif., were in for a surprise when they stepped out into the bright and blowy morning of Feb. 26 to pick up their Sunday newspapers. In that quiet and beautiful city of about 60,000, a respected fellow citizen had discovered what he felt was an outrage.

"The editor and publisher of the News-Press is in his 85th year," began a two-column editorial on the front page.

"His entire life has been spent in this community . . . he lived when conditions were rugged. When West was West and men

were men. He lived during periods when if a man or a group of men openly by word of mouth, or the printed word, called our President . . . and others at the head of our government, traitors, they were made to answer. Such slanders often called for a visit from a courageous and irate group which brought with them a barrel of tar and a few feathers. . . ."

Thomas More Storke, rancher and citrus grower, owner of a newspaper since 1900, briefly by interim appointment a United States senator, regent of the

Boston American, Boston, Mass.
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.
Christian Science Monitor,
Boston, Mass.
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

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University of California, was taking a stand against the John Birch Society and its founder and leader, Robert Welch of Belmont, Mass.

Mr. Welch, 61, retired from a candy firm four years ago to devote his life to fighting communism. What bothered editor Storke was the way Mr. Welch was fighting it.

In a letter written before he set up the society late in 1958 and still in limited circulation, Mr. Welch told friends that President Eisenhower, his brother, Dr. Milton Eisenhower, the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and his brother, Allen Dulles, then and now head of the Central Intelligence Agency, were members of the Communist underground.

But the statement about Mr. Eisenhower wasn't all Mr. Storke had on his mind. In Santa Barbara itself, blessed as few communities in the nation with the comforts of both nature and material wealth, lives a member of the society's 26-man council, Dr. Granville Knight, a physician. Several active chapters of the semi-secret society were studying communism at private meetings and looking around town for Communists to expose.

"The secret Communist looks and acts just like anybody else, only more so," Mr. Welch had instructed them. "He could be anybody you know." In fact, Mr. Welch said, one of his prime suspects is "one of the nicest men you ever met. Most of them are."

Exposure of such persons, even through "mean and dirty" techniques, Mr. Welch said, is one of the most effective means of shocking the American people awake in time to save themselves from communism. He also advises members to set up front groups, to infiltrate community organizations and to engage in directed letter writing to promote specific campaigns of his ultra-conservative society.

It was to protest what these tactics were doing to Santa Bar-

Continued on Page 22, Col. 4

Birch

Continued from Page One

bara that editor Storke raised his editorial voice.

"The News-Press condemns the tactics that have brought anonymous telephone calls of denunciation to Santa Barbarans in recent weeks from members of the John Birch Society or their sympathizers," Mr. Storke's editorial said.

"The News-Press condemns the pressures on wealthy residents who fear and abhor communism, to contribute money to an organization whose leader has said that 'for reasons you will understand, there can be no accounting of funds.' . . .

"The John Birch Society already has done a grave disservice to Santa Barbara by arousing suspicions and a mutual distrust among men of goodwill. The organization's adherents, sincere in their opposition to communism, do not seem to understand the dangers of the totalitarian dynamite with which they are tampering.

"The News-Press challenges them: come up from underground.

"And if they believe that in being challenged they have grounds for suit — let them sue. The News-Press would welcome a suit as a means of shedding more light on the John Birch Society."

The Real Nature

What is the real nature of this relatively new group on the American political scene? Political scientists would classify it as ultra-conservative. It is and will remain a subject of controversy, however, over whether its tactics are compatible with American democratic principles as they are most popularly understood.

It is, in itself, an authoritarian society. (Editor Storke's adjective was "totalitarian"). Mr. Welch does not say the United States should have a similarly authoritarian form of government. But he is far from completely sold on the form we now have. And as for the political concept of a democracy, he regards it frankly as a "weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud."

By Mr. Welch's political standards, Dwight Eisenhower is Communist, and so are many others in high government places, past and present. These are standards not everyone accepts. The U.S. Senate on March 8 heard Sen. Milton R. Young, North Dakota Republican, declare that Mr. Welch's accusations against Mr. Eisenhower and others had gone "beyond anything the late Joe McCarthy ever thought of." On the other hand, a Senate internal affairs subcommittee has described Mr. Welch's John Birch Society as a "patriotic organization."

And because there is evidence to support the society's claim that it is growing, the controversy around it is also bound to grow.

"Labeled and Vilified"

A little over three weeks after Mr. Storke's editorial, Chancellor Samuel B. Gould of the University of California at Santa Barbara, speaking at a university banquet, said a "new type" of secret student organization had been set up on the campus and "unless it is checked, can destroy the university." Another official said "it was understood," Mr. Gould referred to the Birch society.

Mr. Gould said the organization to which he referred encourages students to become informers and "take on the tasks of security agencies." He said the university and its officials "have been labeled and vilified in whispering campaigns, all purporting to prove that we are not only less than loyal to America but are downright subversive."

Santa Barbara was not the first or the last community — although it would seem among the most unlikely to have been torn by the society's activities — to have seen it assailed by its newspapers. The organization

has become embroiled in controversy in many states.

At issue between the society and many who might otherwise share Mr. Welch's conservative political and economic views is his persistent reasoning that everything he personally considers wrong is a Communist plot.

At issue between the society and those who condemn it is the tendency of its activities to suppress if not the right, at least the respectability, of dissent.

Young Fundamentalist

John Birch had nothing to do with the group which bears his name. He was a young fundamentalist Baptist missionary from Georgia who served as an intelligence officer in China during World War II and was killed 10 days after V-J Day by Chinese Communists.

Robert Welch never heard of Birch until after his death, but he has researched and written his life story. Mr. Welch has memorialized Birch as "probably the first American casualty in that third world war, between Communists and the ever-shrinking 'free world,' which is still being waged against us." And when he came to found a Communist-fighting organization, he called it the John Birch Society.

Members of the society are asked to write letters to congressmen and others, operate in "front" organizations and through established community groups such as PTAs and chambers of commerce to push campaigns conceived by Mr. Welch as anti-Communist. These include movements to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren, to repeal the income tax law, to rout the social gospel from the churches, to oppose the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance, foreign aid, the United Nations and cultural, or any other, exchanges with Russia.

At her farm home near Macon, Ga., Mr. Birch's mother, Mrs. George S. Birch, said she and her husband are "heartily in accord" with Mr. Welch's organization "and we are proud for it to bear our son's name."

Mr. Welch, born in North Carolina, Dec. 1, 1899, spent four years at the University of North Carolina, two at the Naval Academy and two at Harvard Law School before going into the candy business. He was for years vice president of the James O. Welch Co., headed by his brother, which has factories in Massachusetts and in Los Angeles.

Society Founded in 1958

He also was a director of the National Association of Manufacturers for seven years.

On Jan. 1, 1957, his biography says, he "gave up most of his business responsibilities — and most of his income — in order to devote practically all of his time and energy to the anti-Communist cause."

The John Birch Society was founded on Dec. 9, 1958, at Indianapolis, after Mr. Welch had delivered a two-day speech to 11 men he had invited to hear it. That speech is today the "blue book" of the society, the official statement of its aims and methods.

The aim is: "Less government, more responsibility and a better world."

Mr. Welch quite generally wants to repeal the 20th century. But unlike many who share this desire, either politically or nostalgically, he views its trend toward "collectivism" not simply as a mistake but as a sinister conspiracy to change the economic and political structure of the United States so that this nation can be merged with the Soviet Union without a fight.

"The danger is almost entirely internal," Mr. Welch said, "from Communist influences right in our midst and right in our government."

The idea that the nation must mobilize its resources to combat the external danger of Soviet military might and Spuk supremacy is, in Mr. Welch's view, a part of the Communist plot. "In other words, under the guise of fighting communism, we are being stampeded to the biggest jump ever toward, and perhaps the final jump, right into socialism and then the Communist camp."

Would Repeal Law

Mr. Welch would repeal virtually all of the social and economic legislation of the last 30 years.

"The greatest enemy of man is, and always has been, government," he said.

He warned that communism

is being slipped over on the American people so gradually and insidiously that before long "They can no longer resist the Communist conspiracy as free citizens, but can resist the Communist tyranny only by themselves becoming conspirators against established government."

The Los Angeles Times, in an editorial signed by publisher Otis Chandler on March 12, saw an implication of sedition in Mr. Welch's statements. And, like many others, it deplored the identification of conservatism with extremism.

But criticism from the press is not likely to disturb Mr. Welch. He already has told his followers that "the domination of our press, television and radio by Communist influences is now so great that you simply are not allowed to learn or be reminded of the real nature of the beasts to whom we are losing."

"When you hear Welch's charges out of context . . . their absurdity is plain enough," said the Rev. John A. Crane to his congregation at Santa Barbara's Unitarian Church one February Sunday.

"But when you come upon them in the publications of the society, surrounded and supported by Welch's rich, flowing language and ideas, their absurdity is well concealed."

"The man is a marvelously gifted demagogue. . . ."

"There is another factor apart from the magic of Robert Welch that lends power to the movement . . . both Welch and his people are genuinely afraid . . . driven by an almost wild fear of a persistent and pervasive sort. Because of the peculiar nature of their understanding of what it means to be an American, everywhere they look, in our society, they see signs of an incredibly devious subversion. . . ."

Continued Tomorrow,
In The Evening Bulletin

Is It Extremist? Here Are 6 Tests

Sacramento, Calif. — (UPI) — The John Birch Society was the target of both the executive and legislative branches of the California government today.

The California attorney general's office was reported to be making an investigation of the society, some of whose principal organizers are located in Southern California.

State Attorney General Stanley Mosk warned in a speech before the Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce that "fanatical groups on the extreme right" must be as closely guarded as the Communists, for they are "equally dangerous to democracy."

He gave six tests by which he said people could determine whether an organization advocated an extremist doctrine.

Does the organization attack churches and schools with blanket accusations?

Does it attack other traditional American institutions with wild unsupported charges?

Does it label everyone with whom it disagrees politically un-American or subversive?

Does it try to rewrite

modern history by blaming American statesmen for wars, communism, depression and other world ills?

Does it resort to crude pressure tactics such as anonymous phone calls and letter-writing?

Do the spokesmen of the group appear more interested in the size of their money collections than in the principles they purport to espouse?

"Apply these six tests," he said, "and you will avoid entangling memberships with such groups as the American Nazi Party, the Communists, the Ku Klux Klan, the John Birch Society, the Cinema Education Guild, the Muslims, and others of that type."

Meanwhile, a committee of the California state legislature began hearings on the Birch Society. One lawmaker testified it "reminds us very much" of the Hitler organization in Germany before World War II.

"This is an organization to fight Communists," said Assemblyman Gordon I. Winton.

"The Hitler organization started out the same way and at-

tracted some very respectable businessmen."

The hearing by the assembly rules committee is considering a proposal to request a federal investigation of the society.

In Beverly Hills, a spokesman for the Birch Society in Beverly Hills rejected the help of the American Civil Liberties Union in defending the society's right.

Paul H. Calbert said the ACLU assistance was "gratuitous and un-solicited."



John Birch Society leader Robert Welch.

BS-8 Revised (6-17-59)

Blue Book Gives Goals Birch Society Aims To Impeach Warren

(Following is the second of three dispatches about the semi-secret John Birch Society, an organization that has created controversy across the land because of its methods of fighting communism.)

By BARBARA BUNDSCHU
(United Press-International)

At the start of 1961 the John Birch Society organized one to 100 chapters in each of 34 states and the District of Columbia, according to its founder and leader, Robert Welch of Belmont, Mass.

(Still to be organized: Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont.)

"The John Birch Society is to be a monolithic body," Welch said in a blue book of the organization's doctrine.

"A republican form of government or of organization has many attractions and advantages, under certain favorable conditions. But under less happy circumstances it lends itself too readily to infiltration, distortion and disruption. And democracy, of course, in government or organization . . . is merely a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud . . .

"The John Birch Society will operate under completely authoritative control at all levels . . . no collection of debating societies is ever going to stop the Communist conspiracy."

Paul H. Talbert, Los Angeles insurance executive who is one of the society's council members, estimated recently that it might have 100,000 members by the end of 1961, its third year.

There is no public accounting of either money or membership. Dues are \$24 a year for men and \$12 for women; life memberships are \$1000, either sex. Appeals for additional volun-

tary contributions accompany all mailings to members. Welch has said he draws no salary.

There are 28 full-time employees at headquarters and the society is reported to be the largest single source of revenue for the Belmont post office, next door.

Another 35 salaried persons work around the country as coordinators of member groups, and an additional 100 persons work full or almost full time as volunteers.

Welch frankly has borrowed the Communist technique of setting up "front" groups for specific purposes. He acknowledges that another technique he advocates—the use of loaded questions to smear a suspect he can't prove is a Communist—is "mean and dirty."

The "most important activity" of the John Birch Society at the moment is its campaign

to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren.

In the view of Welch, the Supreme Court's school decision and all the racial troubles in the South have been brought about by Communists to foment civil war. "Civil rights" is a Communist slogan, "an exact parallel to the slogan of 'agrarian reform' which they used in China," he has told members.

In his bulletin for March he urged them to write "more letters to the same congressmen . . . the same letters to more congressmen" and to the newspapers to prepare the way for undisclosed "specific

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8/13/03 BY SP4BJC/SLY

Boston American, Boston, Mass.
x Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.
Christian Science Monitor,
Boston, Mass.
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 3-31-61
Edition: Morning
Author: Barbara Bundschu
Editor: Victor O. Jones
Title: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Class. or Character: 100
Page: 13
Bufile No.
Submitting Office: Boston 100-32899

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actions" to come.

Congressmen, recently made aware of Welch's old accusation that former President Eisenhower was a Communist, are already looking askance at what they describe variously as a "trickle" or a "flood" of "Impeach Warren" mail.

Republican whip Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel of California, who said he had received about 200 such letters since October, described the campaign as "contemptable and vicious."

Rep. Edgar W. Hiestand, (R-Calif.), is listed by the society as a member of its "committee of endorsers." Hiestand said he has been a member of the society for several years.

"It is a society of individualists dedicated to fighting communism," Hiestand said. "They make up their own minds. They are violently anti-communist. That is the one thing we have in common."

Rep. Gordon Scheyer, (R-Ohio), a member of the House Un-American Activities Committee, also listed as an endorser, said he was not a member of the society, but "I look with favor on it."

The Senate Internal Security subcommittee is replying to inquiries with a form letter over the signature of its chairman, Sen. James O. Eastland, D-Miss. It reads: "The John Birch Society, about which you asked, is known to be a organization officially. We are happy to state that it seems to be from our records, a patriotic organization. Very truly yours

Members of the society from coast to coast have professed themselves undisturbed by Welch's pre-society charge that President Eisenhower was not a dupe but a communist.

Spruille Braden, former U.S. ambassador and a member of the society's council, said he didn't agree with the charge but that it in no way led him to question Welch's judgment on other matters.

"He may exaggerate sometimes," Braden said of Welch. "When you're in a barroom brawl, no holds are barred. You don't fight by the Marquis of Queensbury rules."

NEXT—Welch gives his opinion of Eisenhower, Taft, MacArthur and Goldwater; action of the opposition).

BS-8 Revised (6-17-59)

Birch Society Head Accused

Welch Probe Asked For 'Libel' on Ike

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel, R-Calif., asked Thursday for an investigation of the head of the John Birch Society for what Kuchel called "a fantastic and incredible libel" against former President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Kuchel said Robert Welch, retired candy manufacturer of Belmont, Mass., who founded the society, should be called before the Senate Government Operations Committee for attempts to besmirch the character of Eisenhower, Chief Justice Earl Warren and others.

CARD-CARRYING

He said Welch "accuses Dwight Eisenhower of being a card-carrying Communist."

The John Birch Society is an organization with the declared purpose of fighting Communist infiltration. It is named for a missionary killed by the Chinese Communists.

In a story Thursday, the Washington Evening Star said Rep. Edgar W. Hiestand, R-Calif., is a member. It quoted him as saying, "he joined in California 'quite a while back,' and is sure there are other Congress members affiliated with the society."

PROBE URGED

Hiestand was also quoted as saying he would like to see an investigation of the society by the House Committee on Un-American Activities because he believes this would dispel charges that the society is "a dictatorial Fascist" organization.

Asked about the Star's story, Hiestand told an AP reporter that the story was substantially correct.

Rep. Henry S. Reuss, D-Wis., disclosed he had asked an investigation by the Committee on Un-American Activities. He made public a letter of reply from Chairman Francis E. Walter, D-Pa., saying the committee has re-

ceived no information indicating that an investigation of the society should, or could, be made by it.

NUMEROUS LETTERS

Walter said the committee had received numerous letters regarding the society. Most of them, he said, contain the general complaint the organization is "un-American."

But, Walter said, the specific complaints allege wrongs against individuals "whose recourse would be action in the civil courts."

Kuchel's call for a Senate investigation was prompted by a speech in which Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn., said Welch had attacked Eisenhower, former presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman, the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, Chief Justice Warren and others.

Dodd said it was "an affront to both decency and intelligence."

PRESS COMMENDED

Dodd commended the American press for exposing the John Birch Society to public scrutiny. But he said he could not understand why the press had not been as vigorous in exposing the Communist peace offensive and Communist-front operations in the United States.

Dodd, an outspoken anti-Communist, is a member of the Senate Internal Security subcommittee, headed by Sen. James O. Eastland, D-Miss. It, like the House Committee on Un-American Activities, has investigated communism in recent years.

Recently asked about the John Birch Society, Eastland's subcommittee issued a form letter saying, "We are happy to state that it seems to be, from our records, a patriotic organization."

In Los Angeles Wednesday, Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., told newsmen he disagreed with many of the theories of the John Birch Society but, "I am impressed by the type of people in it. They are the kind we need in politics."

APR 13 1960
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4/13/60

— Boston American, Boston, Mass.
— Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.
X — Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.
— Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.
— Christian Science Monitor, Boston, Mass.
— Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 3-31-61
Edition: Late City
Author:
Editor: George E. Minot
Title: JO BIRCH SOCIETY

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Page: 23
Bufile No.
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FBI - BOSTON

cc Bureau

Ike Charge Made Before Birch Group Began, Says Bunker

Col Laurence Bunker of Wellesley, former personal aide to Gen Douglas MacArthur, said yesterday in a radio interview over the CBS network from WEEI that a letter branding former President Eisenhower a Communist was written "long before" the John Birch Society was organized.

Col Bunker, a Boston attorney, identified himself as a director of the Birch Society. He said a statement that Chief Justice Earl Warren should be impeached is "well documented."

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Boston: American, Boston, Mass.
☒ Boston: Globe, Boston, Mass.
Boston: Herald, Boston, Mass.
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.
Christian Science Monitor,
Boston, Mass.
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 3-31-61
Edition: Morning
Author:
Editor: Victor O. Jones
Title: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

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100-32899-99
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (100-32899#)

DATE: 3-31-61

FROM : [REDACTED] (LIAISON)

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b7DSUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
[REDACTED] Inft.)

Telephonically on this date [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated she was "a nervous wreck regarding the John Birch Society." She said she is not a member of this group, that she is a loyal citizen and she had been approached by a co-worker (woman) [REDACTED] to join the society.

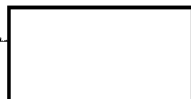
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[REDACTED] etc. She was informed that such action as she might take was not to be considered as connected with, for, or on behalf of the FBI.

Above submitted for record purpose: inasmuch as it is felt she will probably contact this office again re the John Birch Society.

LHM
100-32899ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/13/02 BY [REDACTED]

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DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)

3/31/61

SAC, BOSTON (100-32899)

**THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)**

Re: Boston letter to the Director dated 2/17/61.

On March 21, 1961, HERBERT A. PHILBRICK advised that he had no current information concerning the number of JOHN BIRCH CHAPTERS now functioning.

PHILBRICK stated that on his last personal contact with ROBERT WELCH, about two years ago, he was told that there were 20 chapters in Houston, Texas, and one chapter in Bismark, North Dakota. He has no additional information at the present time concerning the number of chapters of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY. He stated that if he obtained additional information concerning this, he would furnish same to the Bureau.

Because of PHILBRICK's lack of particulars, the above information is being submitted by letter to the Bureau rather than by letterhead memorandum.

This case is now being closed in the Boston Division.

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2 - Bureau (62-104401) (RM)
1 - Boston (100-32899)
DBC:etg
(3)

(Post Closed)

100-32899-101

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Fortunately, many American citizens have learned that any political extreme is cause for alarm. An extreme rightist point of view has proved through history to be as destructive as the extreme left threatens to become.

If Fascism comes to this country, will it come through an outspoken, visible force or through some extremely conservative program which strips America of her democratic foundation in its process of ferreting out supposed leftist tendencies within this democracy? We tend to fear the latter means; and just such a mushrooming organization is the growing cause of our concern.

ORIGINS: This operation is the John Birch Society, an extreme right-wing organization ostensibly dedicated to the important fight against Communism. To grasp the intensity and severity of the group's views, it is well to state at the outset that the very cautious and highly-regarded [redacted] (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, January 22, 1961) that the leader of the John Birch Society---Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., of Belmont, Massachusetts---has prepared a book for secret distribution "that accuses former President Eisenhower of treason and links most of his aids--- [redacted] former Secretary of Defense Neil McElroy and many others, including Chief Justice Warren---in a Communist conspiracy to take over the country".

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Welch himself wrote of the origins of the John Birch Society in Task Force, official publication of the "Defenders of the American Constitution, Inc." (January, 1960, Vol. 6, No. 9):

"The John Birch Society...was founded on December 3, 1958, in Indianapolis, by this writer and a small group of outstanding men who had come from various parts of the country at my invitation for a two-day meeting. You have probably heard nothing about the Society, because we avoid general publicity as well as we can. This is not because there is anything secret about our activities, but because our whole purpose is to build strength and understanding rather than create noise."

Welch then goes on to say that the Society has a full-time paid staff, called Coordinators, and local working chapters formed and supervised by these Coordinators, covering fourteen states. He adds that there are members of the Home Chapter in about twenty states and claims that "the list includes many of the most influential and highly regarded men and women in our country".

2/10/02 JPH/gj/ply

Why is the body called The John Birch Society? Let Welch tell:

"A word about our name is in order. John Birch was a young Christian missionary, from a farm near Macon, Georgia, who was in China when we entered World War II. He joined Chennault's forces as a volunteer, organized Chennault's intelligence, rose to the rank of captain in the United States Army, and served with unsurpassable bravery and brilliance throughout the war. Ten days after V-J day, while in uniform, on a peaceful and official mission for our government, he was brutally murdered in cold blood by our 'allies', the Chinese Communists. You have probably never heard of John Birch, simply because the Communists in Washington planned it that way. We believe that his short but outstanding and memorable life so typifies the best of Americans that we have named our organization in his memory."

[redacted] writing July 26, 1960, in The Chicago Daily News, has said of the John Birch Society: "The operation is monolithic...it operates under authoritative control at all levels. And Welch is the undisputed boss."

Who is Welch? How great a threat to American democracy is posed by the man whose reasoning in regard to Eisenhower seems to be: "How else do you explain the President's action of seven years? Welch would have dealt in a certain way with the Communists. Mr. Eisenhower chose another way; therefore, he is a Communist." [redacted] Chicago Daily News, August 30, 1960).

In his July 24, 1960, Chicago speech, "TO PREVENT A THIRD PARTY", Welch referred to Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Dwight David Eisenhower as two outstanding examples of "demagogues who built up a political following as conservatives, ran for office as Conservatives on conservative platforms and promises, got elected, and then proved themselves to be the most profligate of liberals". In that same speech, he spoke of "Richard Nixon's behind-the-scenes maneuvers to placate the Communists".

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According to the Boston Herald, August 29, 1960, Robert H. W. Welch, Jr. was born in 1900 in North Carolina, and was educated at the University of North Carolina, U.S. Naval Academy, and Harvard Law School. He came to Boston in 1919, and, except for his travels of well over a million miles"... in his...search for knowledge about what he believed to be the steady march of socialism.", has spent most of his time here since. In the field of politics, Welch was vice-chairman of the Massachusetts G.O.P. finance committee in 1948, ran unsuccessfully for Republican nomination for lieutenant-governor in 1950, and worked for Eisenhower's election in 1952. "In 1954, he served as New England vice-president of the National Association of Manufacturers and as chairman of one of its major committees on education. In 1956, he advocated the formation of a third party, which, he says, he would support today. He is the former vice-president and sales and advertising executive of the James O. Welch (Candy) Co., Cambridge, Mass. [redacted] Forced to choose between politics and business, Robert Welch chose the former and devotes full time to writing and the John Birch Society, of which he is the fountainhead. Welch is the author of two small books, May God Forgive Us, regarding the dismissal of General MacArthur, and The Life of John Birch. He has published the Blue Book,

a printed copy of his Indianapolis talkathon (December 8 and 9, 1958) which initiated the John Birch Society, and The Politician, the John Birch Society's printed handbook and Bible which is given only to qualified members of his Society. Currently, he is the editor of a monthly periodical American Opinion in which he airs his views practiced by the John Birch Society.

Welch sees his brain child as the only alternative to a Communist slave state. For, in his mind, "Democracy is merely a deceptive phase, a weapon of demagoguery and a perennial fraud." (Said in 1958 to founders of John Birch Society, Blue Book).

The Santa Barbara News Press of January 23, 1961, labels the John Birch Society an "...organization which (has) very questionable policies ... (in which) Conservatives can get involved with extremists... Supporting a man or an organization which proclaims the kind of irresponsible lies and extremists' theories as those held by Welch is as bad as writing and preaching this stuff."

Before examining the people, institutions, and programs which have been and become targets of Welch and the John Birch Society, let us determine how the namesake of the organization fits into Welch's well laid-out scheme. In his book, The Life of John Birch, Robert Welch eloquently martyrizizes the young soldier, John Birch, and makes him the embodiment of everything American and Christian. The American people, according to the Welch biography of John Birch, were to be blinded from the fact that the Chinese Communists chose to murder John Birch as proof of their power to liquidate this symbol of complete opposition to all their beliefs.

Selecting John Birch as his Everyman, Robert H.W. Welch sought the sympathy of all "true" Americans to rally behind his cause and help fight his own private and increasingly rightist war against Communism. To quote Welch (The Life of John Birch...page 109): "In the forces that swirled around John Birch lay all the conflicts, of philosophy and of implementations, with which one whole world is now so imperatively concerned. Therein lay the significance of his life and death." Actually we must choose between the civilization, the form of society, and the expression of human life, as represented by John Birch, and their parallels as envisioned by Karl Marx and his spiritual successors. There is no middle ground..."

By what means has Welch proceeded to achieve his end of stamping out Communism in the U.S. and ultimately abroad? To this end, he has the backing of wealthy conservative businessmen as well as other conservative citizens who realistically recognize the threat of Communism to the free people of the world. Welch has built an authoritarian tool which hammers away at the structure of democratic America in order to reduce it to an isolated framework free from any liberal or solidifying buttresses. Welch told a Boston Herald reporter that "We are going to cut through the red tape and parliamentary briar patches and roadblocks of confused purpose with direct authority at every turn. The men who join the John Birch Society...are going to be doing so primarily because they believe in me and what I am doing and are willing to accept my leadership anyway. And we are going to use that loyalty, like every other resource, to the fullest possible advantage." (Boston Herald, September 28, 1960) Mem-

bers who cease to feel necessary loyalty will either resign or be put out of the organization.

The increasing extremism and quasi-Fascist nature of the John Birch Society are exemplified by the following list of people, institutions, and programs which have become some of the targets of Robert H.W. Welch, Jr. and his Society:

People

- 1) Former President Eisenhower is a knowing dedicated agent of the Communists. (Chicago Daily News, July 26, 1960: "STRANGE THREAT TO DEMOCRACY---ANTI-RED GROUP HITS LEADERS" by Jack Mabley, who got access to Welch's The Politician.)
- 2) Milton Eisenhower is "Ike's alleged boss in the (Communist) Party". (Boston Herald, August 28, 1960: "EXTREME RIGHTS TAKE AIM AT LEFTS".)
- 3) Earl Warren violated states rights by forced integration. (Boston Herald, August 30, 1960.)
- 4) Franklin Delano Roosevelt was used by the Communists. (Same reference as 1)
- 5) Harry S. Truman also was used by (the Communists), but with his knowledge and acquiescence because they made him President. (Same reference as 1)
- 6) Former Secretary of State Herter was to be harrassed by Welch's followers "...as a justifiable defensive activity on behalf of our country." (September, 1960, John Birch Society bulletin as reported in The Milwaukee Journal, September 25, 1960, "BIRCH SOCIETY URGED TO TAKE OVER PTA's".)
- 7) Henry Cabot Lodge was charged with having "...done the most to build up the pretense for gullible Americans that the U.N. can serve some useful purpose while subtly surrendering to Soviet pressures in one situation after another." (Same reference as 6)
- 8) "Some (Protestant) preachers actually use their pulpits to preach outright Communism." (Boston Herald, August 29, 1960, "SCHOOL TARGET OF RED'S ENEMY")
- 9) Text-writers, Welch said, "can take elementary arithmetic and, by making the problems deal with money that medicine costs poor father, glorify socialized medicine and the welfare state." (Boston Herald, August 29, 1960) "We check local school committees...getting our people elected to (them)...and getting the worst of (the books) thrown out...History (only field in which the John Birch Society is trying to do an "anti-Communistic job) should be American, patriotic history." (same reference as 8)

Institutions

- 1) United Nations is labeled a glass house stable for Trojan Horses. "...The U.N. ...promote(s) Communism throughout the world while providing a pretext for preventing the U.S. from adopting a policy in its own interest." It symbolizes "...a surrender of national sovereignty. We pay bulk of expenses of an organization controlled by our implacable enemies." (The Welch magazine, American Opinion, November, 1960, "DON'T SEND ME A UNICEF GREETING CARD", by [redacted])

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- 2) UNICEF (United Nations Children's Emergency Fund) is supported by 81 countries, and yet the United States contributes 80% of its finances. A substantial part of its funds are expended in Communist countries.

UNICEF greeting cards are "...designed...to...make a mockery of the observation of the Birth of Christ." Children's solicitations of funds for UNICEF on Halloween proves to be one means of "...push(ing) us gradually into a global 'welfare' state owned and operated by a Communist world government." (same reference as #1, p.27)

- 3) Parent Teachers Associations. In the September, 1960, bulletin of the John Birch Society, Welch advised members to "join your local PTA at the beginning of the school year, ...and go to work to take it over (underlinings are the author's own)...It is time we went on the offensive, to make such groups the instruments of conservative purpose, with the same vigor and determination that the 'liberals' have used the opposition aims." One example of the John Birch Society's objection to PTA is the latter's promotion of children's solicitation of money for UNICEF on Halloween. (Chicago Daily News, September 13, 1960, "JOHN BIRCH UNIT OUT AFTER PTAS", [redacted])

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Policies and Projects

- 1) Convention-primary apparatus "...is subject to ruthless manipulation by unscrupulous politicians. And the Socialist-Internationalist schemers seized on it as the means of determining...that the American people would never have anybody to vote for except candidates approved by themselves...I can assure you that this revolution is one of the pressures generating a third party." (From a speech by Robert Welch delivered at the unauthorized Chicago rally in support of Senator Goldwater as reported by Manchester (N.H.) Union Leader, August 8, 1960)
- 2) "Eisenhower-Khrushchev visits and summit meeting is most unconstitutional way for an American President to conduct foreign affairs. Treaties must be entered into with advice and consent of the Senate." - Bert W. Kregeloh, Springfield, Mass. news commentator and contri-

butor to Welch's American Opinion, quotes Welch as saying the above. Manchester (N.H.) Union Leader, September 25, 1959, "LETTERS TO THE EDITORS")

Welch organized Committee Against Summit Entanglements, which ran ads in many newspapers all over the nation.

- 3) "Fluoridation of water is a Republican plot to demoralize us." (Fr. [redacted] close associate of Welch's. Daily News, Milford, Mass., September 9, 1959)
- 4) Against mental health programs which bring clinical psychologists into this country to offer consultation to schools on problem children. (Reasons for Welch's asking Society members to oppose this program are still unclear.)
- 5) Against Foreign Aid because too high a percentage of the funds help, either directly or indirectly, Communist countries.

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The roster of those identified with Welch's magazine, American Opinion, follows:

Editor: Robert H.W. Welch, Jr.

Assistant Editors: [redacted]

Comments, which publication merged with American Opinion

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Contributing Editors: [redacted]

Editorial Advisory Committee: [redacted]



4.
[Handwritten signature]

The Council of the John Birch Society is made up of
(February, 1960):

[redacted] surgeon
[redacted] Farm And Ranch
[redacted] Internal
Revenue of U.S.
[redacted] business man
[redacted] Secretary of
State
Colonel [redacted], former
[redacted] to General Douglas MacArthur
[redacted] General Plant Protection
Corporation, Los Angeles
[redacted] Srpska Borba, [redacted]
Serbian weekly
[redacted] Grede Foundries, Milwaukee;
[redacted] National Association of Manu-
facturers [redacted] of the International YMCA
[redacted] manufacturer, [redacted]
[redacted] manufacturer, [redacted]
[redacted] physician, [redacted]
[redacted] Rock Island Oil and Refining Co.,
Wichita, Kansas
Alfred Kohlberg, importer, New York (Deceased)
[redacted] Notre Dame Law School
[redacted] manufacturer, [redacted]
[redacted] manufacturer, [redacted]
[redacted] University of Illinois
[redacted] National Association
of Manufacturers
[redacted] Servel, Inc.,
Evansville, Indiana
[redacted] Republican Congressman
[redacted] manufacturer, [redacted]
member of the board of directors of the First National
Bank of Boston, [redacted] Associated Industries
of Massachusetts
Lt. Gen. [redacted] USAF (retired)
[redacted] manufacturer, [redacted] and
[redacted] of the National Association of Manu-
facturers

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Welch's own description of the basic function of his Council is revealing:

"...(1) To show the stature and standing of the leadership of the Society; (2) to give your Founder the benefit of the COUNCIL's advice and guidance, both in procedural or organizational matters, and in substantive matters of policy; and (3) to select, with absolute and final authority, a Successor to myself as head of The John Birch Society, if and when an accident, 'suicide,' or anything sufficiently fatal is arranged for me by the Communists -- or I simply die in bed of old age and a cancerous disposition. And we believe that both the growth and the effectiveness of our Society will be greatly helped by the experience, ability, and resolute purpose of so strong a governing body."

Welch has given as the aims of the John Birch Society:

"...(1) To outline the nature and the frightening advance of the threats against our nation, our religion, and our civilization; (2) to evaluate these dangers, and place them in their proper perspective, against the backdrop of world history and the rise of western civilization; (3) to set forth a positive philosophy and program to which men of good will, religious ideals, and humane traditions may rally with confidence and determination; (4) to offer leadership which can make the dedication of such men and women more constructive and more fruitful; and (5), to describe in detail the organization, function, and procedures of The John Birch Society."

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Welch has recommended as suitable Christmas gifts such anti-Semitic publications as [redacted] American Mercury and [redacted] Economic Council Letter.

Significantly, Welch himself has stated he has placed reliance for information on [redacted] long active as an anti-Semitic propagandist. On Page [redacted] of a Welch pamphlet, May God Forgive Us, Welch writes: "A pamphlet, America Betrayed, by [redacted] has served as a guide for running down connections between groups and individuals, and I have quoted from it almost directly in some places."

* * *

Critics of the John Birch Society are put in the difficult position of opposing "anti-Communists." As we see it, the only effective means by which to counter such a quasi-Fascist group is to expose its anti-democratic philosophy to the American public.

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With an announced goal of 1,000,000 members and with dues set at \$24 a year for men and \$12 a year for women, Welch seems to be building a power-house of political potential. Chicago Daily News [redacted] who sounded the alarm over the John Birch Society Bulletin directive urging members to join local P.K.s "and go to work to take them over" has offered freedom-loving Americans a true service.

RAYTHEON COMPANY

LEXINGTON 73, MASSACHUSETTS

30 March

CHARLES F. ADAMS
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Dear [redacted]

So far, I have not found out where
this originated. I will let you know
when I do. [redacted]

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b7c

Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Attached is a cc of papers orig.
sent with his letter
returned, per his request. J

100-32899-103

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SERIALIZED <i>BW</i>	FILED <i>J</i>
APR 1 1961	
FBI - BOSTON	

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/13/02 BY 60139/24

[redacted]

470 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts
April 8, 1961



Dear 

Thank you for your note of
March 30, 1961 enclosing some documents on the
John Birch Society.

I appreciate your making these
available to this office.

Sincerely,

L. L. Laughlin
Special Agent in Charge

LLL:mau
Enc.
100-32899

Enclosure returned. Photostatic copy made
for file.



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/13/02 BY 4040/pplj

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE 100-32899

DATE: 3-30-61

FROM : SAC L.L. LAUGHLIN

SUBJECT: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

General [redacted] (USA retired), who [redacted]
 [redacted] Raytheon Corp. telephoned today and asked
 if I would call [redacted] the
 Board of the Raytheon Corp. at [redacted]
 [redacted] General [redacted] had matter he
 wanted to discuss with me personally.

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I called [redacted] and he related that one of his
 associates had advised him that one of the stockholders
 of the Raytheon Corp. intended to oppose the nomination
 of an officer of the company because the officer was a
 member of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY. [redacted] wanted to
 know if the FBI could furnish him any information
 concerning the nature of this group. He mentioned
 he had read a great deal about it in the local press
 recently and in certain magazines but since his concern
 was involved in defense contracts for the various
 branches of the armed services he felt if there was
 anything objectionable to the organization that he
 should know about it.

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I told [redacted] that the FBI had not conducted any
 investigation of the John Birch Society and therefore
 I would have no comment to make concerning it.

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Dresser Won't Discuss Link to Birch Society

Robert B. Dresser, Providence attorney, who is an endorser of the John Birch Society and a member of the executive committee of one of its front groups, yesterday refused to talk about his link with the society.

Mr. Dresser also would not comment on the statements of Robert H. W. Welch Jr., the society's founder, that former President Eisenhower and other U.S. leaders are or were Communists or Communist-led.

"I'm not interested in the slightest degree in talking about this matter with you," Mr. Dresser said, when reached in Florida where he is vacationing.

Asked why he did not want to discuss it, he said, "It's none of your business and you can say I said that."

Mr. Dresser has said he is an endorser of the society. He also was listed on the letterhead of the Committee Against Summit Entanglements as a member of its executive committee in a letter sent out two years ago by Mr. Welch.

Norman D. MacLeod of Ken-

yon, who also is listed by Mr. Welch as a prominent endorser of the society, said yesterday he would not agree with him about calling the former president a Communist.

He said he had heard about such statements appearing in the press, noting, "I haven't anything to base such accusations as that on."

Mr. MacLeod said he doesn't agree with all of Mr. Welch's views. "I believe the object of the society is good, but I don't have to accept whatever Bob Welch says," he noted.

Mr. MacLeod said he is not a very active member of the society and has not tried to start an organization here though he might consider it. "I don't think there is any group here," he added.

Rhode Island has been listed by Mr. Welch as one of about 15 states in which the Birch Society is not organized. Mr. MacLeod said there are two or three persons in Rhode Island

in the "home chapter," the group's members by mail.

He said he thought the society was trying to start an organization in the state "some little time ago but I don't know what came of it." He said he has not been asked directly to do particular work for the society and, in fact, had not received any communications from it in recent weeks.

Boston American, Boston, Mass.
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.
Christian Science Monitor, Boston, Mass.
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Editor: EVELYN BROWN, III

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Birch Group May Face U. S. Probe

WASHINGTON (UPI)

— The Justice Department today expressed "concern" over the anti-Communist John Birch Society and congressional leaders spoke of an investigation.

The Justice Department refused to say whether it is investigating the semi-secret society. But a spokesman said a "growing number of inquiries the Justice Department has received about the John Birch Society has made it a matter of concern to the attorney general."

DODD HINTS SENATE PROBE

Vice Chairman Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn), of the Senate Internal Security Sub-committee, said he would bring up the possibility of investigating the arch-conservative group.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover,
JUSTICE

(Continued on Page Nine)

Boston American, Boston, Mass.
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.
☒ Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.
Christian Science Monitor,
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(Continued from First Page)

In the April law enforcement bulletin, severely criticized "vigilante action" by Americans combating Communism. He did no mention any specific group.

He said Communists stand to gain from every rift among the American people. "Unfortunately, this involves certain people across the country who engage in reckless charges against one another.

"The label of Communist is too often indiscriminately attached to those whose views dif-

fer from the majority," he added.

Hoover said "this is neither the time for inaction nor vigilante action" against Communism. "The ingredients for Communist coups in nations which have fallen under its spell always include a populace shaken with fear, hysteria and confusion.

"There is above all the danger of irresponsible counteraction by citizens who lend impetus to Communism through inept attempts to fight this insidious menace."

HOOVER'S IDEAS ON RED FIGHTING

Hoover said the way to fight it "is to study it, understand it and discover what can be done about it."

Dodd did not say whether he would press for a full-fledged investigation of the Birch Society.

Chairman John L. McClellan, (D-Ark) said his Senate government operations committee has no plans to investigate the society because it has no jurisdiction. The committee and its permanent investigating subcommittee, also headed by McClellan, have broad

investigative powers but only in matters affecting government activities.

Senate Republican whip Thomas H. Kuchel, Calif., proposed yesterday that the Government Operations Committee call Robert Welch, of Belmont, Mass., head of the John Birch group. He would demand that he substantiate charges of pro-Communism he has made against former President Eisenhower and others or apologize for making them.

The International Security subcommittee is headed by Sen.

James O. Eastland, D-Miss., but Dodd frequently serves as acting chairman.

The subcommittee so far has shown no inclination to look into the John Birch group's widespread activities. It has been answering inquiries with a form letter over Eastland's signature saying the group is a "conservative anti-Communist organization" and that so far as subcommittee records show is a "patriotic organization."

Kuchel and Dodd both attacked the society in Senate speeches yesterday and termed Welch's accusations "outrageous."

Little Known About Birch Mass. Groups

By RICHARD VAHAN

"I enforce the John Birch Society. I believe in its principles and I belong to it. But I don't know anything about its activities."

The speaker was Robert H. Montgomery of Cambridge, an attorney with offices at 30 Federal St., Boston. The Birch Society's brochure for new members lists him as one of 10 Massachusetts "endorsers" of the group.

WELCH DIRECTS ACTIVITIES

Others among the endorsers contacted by the Traveler either could not or would not shed any more light on Massachusetts activities of the society.

WELCH

(Continued on Page Eight)

Boston American, Boston, Mass.
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(Continued from First Page)

Most simply referred all questions to the organization's national headquarters at 395 Concord Ave., Belmont.

This is a two-story red-brick building which the Birch Society shares with an insurance company. From a specious first-floor office, founder-leader Robert H. W. Welch Jr., a retired candy manufacturer, directs the nation-wide activities of the organization.

But aides brushed aside a reporter's attempt to talk with Welch himself.

"He's so busy it'll be a month before he's available," an associate explained.

There may be chapters of the John Birch Society scattered throughout Massachusetts, but if there are, no one at headquarters will say anything about them. In fact, there appears to be more secrecy about the society's activities in Massachusetts than in any other state.

Besides Montgomery, these nine persons are listed as members of the committee of endorsers of the Birch Society in Massachusetts:

—COL. W. BRUCE PIRNIE of University Lane, Manchester, with insurance offices at 110 Milk St.

—HOPE GRAY and OLIVE SIMES of 61 Mt. Vernon St.

CHARLES J. LEWIN, assistant publisher of the New Bedford Standard-Times.

—HUBERT W. KREGELOH, a radio commentator in the Connecticut River Valley in Western Massachusetts.

—EUGENE H. CLAPP, BURTON A. PRINCE, JOSEPH SULLIVAN and RODNEY WASHBURN.

BULLETINS EXPLAIN SOCIETY'S VIEWS

There is no identification in society publications of individual chapters. The bulletins and other releases are devoted mostly to explaining the society's (more specifically, Welch's) views. And persuading them you find such statements as these:

"It is extremely possible the Soviets may be planning to have President Eisenhower 'elected' the first President of the United Nations, shortly after he ceases to be President of . . . the most important Soviet satellite."

" . . . We'll be lucky if he (then-Secretary of State Christian A. Herter) doesn't have the Soviet flag flying from the top of the Washington Monument by Jan. 20."

"Dag Hammarskjöld is one of the most contemptible agents of the Kremlin ever supported by the American taxpayers."

How do such statements set with Massachusetts members?

Another prominent Boston attorney, Col. Laurence Bunker of Wellesley, former personal aide to Gen. Douglas MacArthur, agreed the statements sounded extreme.

But he explained them as a method of reaching some of the less-educated persons with the message of the society.

"Some of us may not care for the flamboyant technique used in presenting this message," he said. "But sometimes it is necessary if we are to get it across to some people."

SAYS SOCIETY NOT SECRET

He denied the Birch Society is a secret society.

"It has merely had a general, though not rigid, policy of seeking publicity, not for its officers, staff and membership, but only for its purposes in particular campaigns," he said.

He described the Society as an organization of conservative-minded individuals seeking to preserve American traditions and principles embodied in the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

"These are times of grave danger to those traditions and principles," he said. "And I know of many groups and organizations who are doing their best to alert the American people."

"But I know of none doing so with any greater devotion or selflessness than those connected with the John Birch Society."

NAM Censured Birch Society

NEW YORK (UPI)—The National Association of Manufacturers disclosed today it had in effect censured the John Birch Society in a board resolution adopted last September.

Charles R. Sligh Jr., executive vice president of the NAM, told United Press International the three former NAM presidents listed as members of the council of the controversial society participated in drawing up the resolution. It was passed unanimously.

The resolution did not mention the society or its founder and leader, Robert Welch, by name. But Sligh said it was passed after disclosure Welch had called former President Eisenhower a Communist.

It affirmed the NAM's confidence in Eisenhower. It said the organization "does not and will not knowingly be associated with any individual or be a party to any organization that questions the loyalty and integrity of President Eisenhower or attempts to degrade the fundamental respect due him and his high office."

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WASHINGTON (AP)—Criticism in Congress and elsewhere of the John Birch Society brought a charge today from a member—who also sits in Congress—that Communists are promoting a “smear” of the ultra-rightist organization.

Even as a Justice Department spokesman said the society's activities are a matter of concern there, Rep. Edgar W. Hiestand (R.) of California told reporters:

“My advice is for people not to sound off before they have all the facts.”

Before talking with reporters, Hiestand, who disclosed his affiliation with the society, had a telephone conversation with its founder, Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., of Belmont, Mass.

Welch, a retired candy maker, founded the society in 1948. His personal targets include former President Eisenhower and Chief Justice Earl Warren. Welch has called Eisenhower a Red and says Warren should be impeached.

Hiestand said he did not agree with Welch as to Eisenhower or Warren. He said the remarks about Eisenhower had “been made several years ago and

were taken out of context” by those now quoting them.

Hiestand said there were also other society policy statements he disagreed with, but added:

“I choose to stay because the society as a whole is a 98 per cent dedicated anti-Communist group. To me it would seem to have a better chance of successful achievement than any of the other sound and fine patriotic groups of which I know.”

Hiestand, when disclosing his own membership, had said there were other members of Congress in the society but did not name them.

NAMES SOLON

Today, he named Rep. John Rousselot, (R.) of California, as another member of Congress active in the society and said “I am quite sure there are others.”

In response to questions, Hiestand said of the society:

—He doesn't know how many members or chapters it has now, but the goal is 100,000 members this year.

—He has been “informed” there are several chapters in Washington, but doesn't “know the facts” as to that.

—The society is not a secret one but the identity of members is kept confidential to protect them from “persecution and attack.”

Hiestand said he belongs to the “home” chapter of the society which he described as a nationwide chapter directly under Welch. He referred to Welch as “the founder” in all references to him during the news conference.

Hiestand described the society members as “violent, emphatic, dedicated anti-Communists” but contended that not

Continued From Page 5

more than 2 per cent ~~of the~~ be considered extremists.”

CLAIMS SMEAR

He said growing criticism of the group by newspapers and public figures was part of a “pro-Communist smear” and was proof of the society's success in fighting Communism.

In response to a question, he said he was unable to identify any Communists among those who were criticizing the society.

“But they are in the background of the smear,” he added.

Hiestand said the major aim of the society is to spread information about the Communist conspiracy, through letters to Congressmen and other methods.

Another Congressman, Rep. Gordon H. Scherer (R.), of Ohio said he is not a member of the society but has “looked favorably on this organization.”

Scherer expressed this view in a letter to Rep. Leslie C. Arends of Illinois, assistant GOP leader in the House.

Scherer, a member of the House Committee of Un-American Activities, told a reporter that Arends had asked him for a fill-in on the society.

“It (the society's) membership is composed of conservatives and anti-Communists, and it is a basically pro-American organization,” Scherer wrote.

“In Cincinnati (Scherer's home city) many of our outstanding citizens are members of the local chapter.”

A number of members of Congress have urged investigations of the Birch society's activities. There have been attacks on some members of Congress, directed out, chiefly through letters to other organizations and individuals.

Turn to Page 21, Col. 1

U.S. Looks Into Birch Society

By the Associated Press

Washington

The John Birch Society, a conservative anti-Communist organization, has become "a matter of concern to the Attorney General," a Justice Department spokesman said Friday.

Asked if the department planned any action, the spokesman said, "A growing number of inquiries which the Justice Department has received about the John Birch Society has made it a matter of concern to the Attorney General." He declined to go beyond that brief statement.

There was no direct comment from Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, brother of the President.

Members of both the House and Senate denounced the organization Thursday and called for investigations of its leaders. Several senators have been attacked in letter-writing campaigns by society members.

Founder Criticized

The most caustic criticism centered around the society's founder, Robert Welch, who is said to have called former President Eisenhower and others Communists.

J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, spoke out Friday against "reckless charges" and "vigilante action" in a signed editorial in the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin.

Mr. Hoover did not mention the John Birch Society, and FBI spokesmen declined comment on whether the society was an intended target. Mr. Hoover wrote:

"The job of curtailing and containing communism is one for legally constituted authorities with the steadfast cooperation of every loyal citizen.

Hysteria and Fears

"This is neither the time for inaction nor vigilante action. . . .

"Attributing every adversity to communism is not only irrational, but contributes to hysteria and fosters groundless fears. . . .

The Birch Society was founded in 1949 by Mr. Welch, a retired candy manufacturer from Belmont, Mass. It has active chapters in almost every part of the country. The society is named for a Baptist missionary who served as an Army intelligence officer in the Far East in World War II. The society says Birch was killed by Chinese Communists 10 days after the end of the war.

Senator Thomas J. Dodd (D) of Connecticut told a reporter he would ask the Senate internal-security subcommittee to investigate the society and its leaders. Senator Dodd joined Senator Thomas Kuchel (R) of California in denouncing the organization Thursday in the Senate.

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Outspoken Anti-Red

Senator Dodd, a member of the subcommittee who often serves as its acting chairman, is one of the Senate's most outspoken anti-Communists.

Senator Kuchel said Mr. Welch has called Mr. Eisenhower "a card-carrying Communist," and that this is "a fantastic and incredible libel."

Senator Kuchel asked: "Should the American people permit this kind of spleen to be poured on a man who has dedicated his whole life to freedom?" He said Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the United States, was "another great American" the society has tried to besmirch.

Senator Kuchel, who has been attacked by the society himself, said Mr. Welch should be called before a Senate committee and asked the basis for "these miserable charges." The committee, he said, should "make him apologize, not alone to Eisenhower and Warren, but to the people of this country."

Senator Dodd said Mr. Welch's charges against Messrs. Eisenhower, Warren, former Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Truman and others are "an affront to both decency and intelligence."

Meanwhile a House member, Representative Edgar W. Hiestand (R) of California acknowledged that he is a member of the Birch Society.

Mr. Hiestand said other mem-

bers of Congress probably are too, but he felt they should have the right to decide for themselves whether to acknowledge this. As for himself, Mr. Hiestand said, "I'm not ashamed to admit that I'm one of them."

Bunker Questioned

By the Associated Press

Boston

A director of the John Birch Society says a letter accusing former President Eisenhower of being part of a Communist conspiracy was circulated confidentially by its author, Robert Welch, long before Mr. Welch founded the society.

Retired Army Col. Lawrence Bunker of Wellesley, Mass., a Boston lawyer and personal aide to Gen. Douglas MacArthur from 1942 to 1953, identified himself as a Birch Society director in a (CBS) Radio network interview Thursday night with WEEI newscaster Fred Cusick.

Mr. Cusick asked Colonel Bunker two questions. The first was: "What about the accusation of Mr. Welch that Mr. Eisenhower is a Communist?"

"As far as the society is concerned," Colonel Bunker said in a recorded reply, "I know of no published material in the society's documents on that particular subject."

"The article, or the letter, which has been widely quoted about Dwight D. Eisenhower was written by Mr. Welch long before the society was organized. It was circulated confidentially to a very limited number of people."

"It was never intended for publication and has not become a part of the society's documents or publications, so far as I know."

In response to the second question, Colonel Bunker said a demand for impeachment of Chief Justice Earl Warren occupies "a good deal of space in a number of the society's bulletins."

He said it was designed to bring to the attention of the American people "the degree to which the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Warren's leadership has stepped out of its role as a purely judicial organization . . . and become to a large extent legislative as well, which is certainly a violation of the basic principle of the constitution."

A spokesman for the Supreme Court said in Washington the Chief Justice would have no comment.

Reds Smear/ Birch Group, Solon Claims

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DEFENDS BIRCH GROUP

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover signed editorial in the FBI law enforcement bulletin wrote.

"The job of curtailing and containing Communism is one for legally constituted authorities with the steadfast cooperation of every loyal citizen.

"This is neither the time for inaction nor vigilante action...

"Attributing every adversity to Communism is not only irrational, but contributes to hysteria and fosters groundless fears..."

Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, (D.) of Connecticut, told a reporter he would ask the Senate Internal Security subcommittee to investigate the society and its leaders. Dodd joined Sen.

Thomas Kuchel, (R.) of California, in denouncing the organization yesterday in the Senate.

Dodd, a member of the subcommittee who often serves as its acting chairman, is one of the Senate's most outspoken anti-Communists.

John Birch Red Victim in China

MACON, Ga. (AP) — John Morrison Birch, for whom the controversial John Birch Society is named, was a fervent

Baptist fundamentalist missionary-soldier. An army captain in the intelligence service, he was killed by Communists in China Aug. 25, 1945, ten days after the Japanese had agreed to surrender in World War II.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. George S. Birch of Macon, both former missionaries, declare that he lost his life trying to obtain information with which to warn America of the Communist danger.

Birch was born May 28, 1918 at Landaur, India, while his parents were missionaries. They brought him back to America at an early age and he proved to be a brilliant student both in high school and college.

At Mercer University, a Baptist school at Macon, from which he was graduated with

honors in 1939, he was a member of a student group bringing heresy charges against some of his professors. The charges eventually were dismissed although they caused a stir in church and college circles.

Before going himself to China as a missionary, Birch studied for a time at Baptist Seminary at Fort Worth, Tex., under the late J. Frank Norris, a firebrand Baptist fundamentalist.

BS-8 Revised (6-17-59)

**Disapproved of Both
Kennedy and Nixon**

Birch Society Leader Raps Top Americans

(Following is the last in a series about the semi-secret John Birch Society, an anti-Communist organization that has caused controversy by its methods.)

By **BARBARA BUNDSCHU**
United Press International

Robert Welch, founder and leader of the John Birch Society, charges that the 1952 G.O.P. presidential nomination was stolen from the late Sen. Robert A. Taft.

Welch's bitterness against former President Eisenhower apparently dates from the 1952 convention, when Eisenhower won the G.O.P. nomination over Taft. In a startling "letter to Khrushchev," published in his magazine "American Opinion" in 1958 and now available in pamphlet form, Welch told the Russian leader he knew that among the pro-Communist activities of recent years had been: "The snatching of the Republican nomination from Taft in 1952 by purchase, theft, secret deals and other tactics more foul than had ever before appeared in American politics."



WELCH

Later in the same letter, which starts out assuring Khrushchev that "we know that you are winning the cold war by leaps and bounds," Welch wrote: "The president of one of America's largest banks took suitcases full of currency to the convention, to bribe delegates away from Taft; and he was rewarded by a major ambassadorship."

In an interview with U.P.I. Welch named Taft and Gen. Douglas MacArthur as great Americans of recent years but declined to name his current favorites. His "blue book," however, leaves no doubt that his current choice is Arizona's Republican Sen. Barry Goldwater.

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"I'd love to see him President of the United States, and maybe some day we shall," Welch said.

Goldwater, in response to a UPI enquiry, said he wasn't aware of any Birch Society indorsement.

Welch, in a December, 1958, speech called former Vice President Richard M. Nixon "one of the ablest, shrewdest, most disingenuous, and slipperiest politicians that ever showed up on the American scene."

"I think Nixon could become a very patriotic anti-Communist if we could create circumstances in which it would be smart politics to be one; whereas I think Nelson Rockefeller . . . is definitely committed to trying to make the United States a part of one-world socialist government..."

Welch's views on President Kennedy were indicated before his election. He did not mention Kennedy by name but his sentiments were made clear in a discussion about "amoral man."

"You will usually find him in church on Sunday morning, maybe even a Catholic church," Welch said then.

"But as a member of the United States Senate, running for the presidency, and smart enough to know the strong Communist support behind-the-scenes which he will have to get in order to have any chance of being nominated in 1960, such an amoral man can do a tremendous amount of ball-carrying on behalf of the

Communist aims here in the United States, and he can do an almost equal amount of damage to anti-Communist morale in other parts of the world, by his well-publicized speeches against Chiang Kai-Shek or in favor of the Algerian rebels.

"And any similarity of characters in this story to any living persons is not coincidental."

WELLESLEY RESIDENT IN TOP ECHFLON

"I am prepared to defend their rights to express their views, as I would 'leftist' opinions," said Los Angeles Atty. A. L. Wirin about the John Birch Society. "That its views, however, are acceptable to any portion of the American public is a sad commentary on the present American political scene."

Sen. Milton R. Young (R-N.D.), who has criticized the society on the Senate floor, said "what surprises me most is not the size but the number of prominent men who belong."

Twelve of the 26 men currently listed as members of the society's council are listed in Who's Who in America. They include two former presidents of the National Assn. of Manufacturers—William J. Grede and Cola G. Parker, both of Wisconsin—and a third former N.A.M. president, Ernest G. Swigert of Portland, Or., had previously been listed as a council member.

Other council members include Spruille Braden, former U.S. ambassador; T. Coleman Andrews, the former collector of internal revenue who ran for President on a platform calling for abolition of the income tax; Clarence Manion, former dean of the Notre Dame Law School and head of the highly conservative Manion Forum; M. T. Phelps, former chief justice of the Supreme Court of Arizona; Col Laurence E. Bunker, of Wellesley, Mass., former personal aide to Gen Douglas MacArthur, and Lt Gen Charles B. Stone 3d, USAF (ret.), former commander of the 14th Air Force in China. The late Alfred Kohberg, New York importer best known for his letter-writing campaign in support of the so-called "China lobby"



SEN. BARRY GOLDWATER gets Robert Welch's nod as his presidential choice, but the Arizona Republican disclaims knowledge of the endorsement.



WOULD LIKE to question Belmont's Robert Welch. Thomas Kuchel of California



PRESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY—ill-disguised target of criticism by Birch Society leader.

was a charter member and is still listed as such.

Adolphe Menjou, the Hollywood actor, was at one time a member of the council. On Mar. 21, Mrs. Menjou said, he had withdrawn from the society.

NIXON SPEAKS OUT AGAINST SOCIETY

Some answers to Wirin's question on the society's appeal were provided Mar. 18 in two pages of letters printed by the Los Angeles Times following its editorial condemnation of the society.

Letter writers who praised the newspaper for its stand included former Vice President Richard M. Nixon, the presidents of the University of California and Occidental College and the chancellor of the University of California at Los Angeles, Rep. James C. Corman (D-Calif.), and Methodist Bishop Gerald Kennedy.

Former Vice President Richard M. Nixon wrote the Times:

"One of the most indelible lessons of human history is that those who adopt the doctrine that the end justifies the means inevitably

find the means to reach the end."

Times publisher Otis Chandler rejoiced on two counts at the heavy reaction to the newspaper's stand. The reader's expenditure for "stamps, phone calls and shoe leather (and aspirin)" he took as a happy omen that the economy is on the upswing.

The first count of replies, he said, was: "Pro Times policy—126 letters, 13 phone calls, 1 new subscription; against—163 pieces of mail, 8 phone calls, 22 actual subscriber cancellations and 12 threats or mentions of cancellations."

COURT CAUGHT IN RIGHTS SQUEEZE

The readers lined up slightly in favor of the John Birch Society in almost exactly the same proportion as the Supreme Court has lined up five to four in favor of the doctrine that freedom of speech is not an absolute right when it becomes involved with Communism.

Extending the judicial difference of opinion into the realm of the society's operations would appear to create a two-edged sword.

The court minority which might look askance at the society's own efforts to suppress dissent would nonetheless support its right to think and to say what it chooses.

The five-man majority has already held that the freedom of speech and association must be balanced against the public interest.

In a minority decision by Justice Hugo Black, with concurrence of Chief Justice Warren who has been attacked by the society:

"Liberty, to be secure for any, must be secure for all—even the most miserable merchants of hatred and unpopular ideals."

Talk of Birch Probe Mounts

Boston American, Boston, Mass.
x Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.
Christian Science Monitor,
Boston, Mass.
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

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Justice Department Voices Concern —Senators Would Quiz Welch—

One Member, Perhaps 2, In Congress

WASHINGTON, Mar. 31 (UPI) — A Congressional member of the controversial John Birch Society defended the organization as an anti-Communist group today, but other Congressmen talked of an investigation and the Justice Department expressed "concern."

Rep. Edgar W. Hiestand, (R-Calif.), the first Congressman to identify himself as a member of the society, said he would welcome a Congressional investigation. He said he felt the society had the best chance of successfully fighting "the Communist conspiracy."

The Justice Department refused to say whether it is investigating the semi-secret society, but a spokesman said a "growing number of inquiries the Justice Department has received about the John Birch Society has made it a matter of concern to the attorney general."

But he rejected a call by the society's founder, Robert H. Welch, Jr., for the impeachment of Chief Justice Earl Warren. Hiestand also said the founder's charges that former President Eisenhower was a communist dupe had been misinterpreted.

(The Globe has been publishing a series of articles on Welch and his organization; the last in the series of three appears today on Page 5.)

Hiestand said he didn't know how many chapters or members of the society had, but identified Rep. John H. Roussetot (R-Calif.) as one other John Birch member he knew in Congress. He said there might be others.

Roussetot was not available immediately for comment.

BIRCH SOCIETY Page Five



TO SEEK investigation. Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.) wants Internal Security subcommittee to look into Birch Society.

But Justice Department Won't Say It's Investigating

BIRCH SOCIETY Continued from the First Page

Hiestand said the society was not a secret or Fascist organization. Besides anti-Communism, he said, its aims were to promote "less and less government."

Hiestand issued a statement saying he and the society's founder would "welcome a congressional investigation—The more thorough the better." However, he said he had not asked the House Committee on Un-American Activities to start an investigation.

"I disagree on several things with the founder—just as I do not subscribe to everything in the Republican platform or agree with what all Republicans say," Hiestand said. "But, I choose to stay because the society as a whole is a 98 percent dedicated anti-Communist group."

Asked to explain the reference to 98 percent, Hiestand said any such group might have members who "sound off and become extremists."

Vice Chairman Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.) of the Senate Internal Security subcommittee said he would bring up the possibility of investigating the arch-conservative group at the subcommittee's next meeting.

Senate Republican whip Thomas H. Kuchel of California, proposed yesterday that the Government Operations Committee call Welch and demand that he substantiate charges of pro-communism he has made against former President Eisenhower and others.



FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, in the April Law Enforcement Bulletin, severely criticized "vigilante action" by Americans combating communism. He did not mention any specific group.

Hoover said "this is neither the time for inaction nor vigilante action" against Communism. "The ingredients for Communist coups in nations which have fallen under its spell always include a populace shaken with fear, hysteria and confusion."

Hoover said Communists stand to gain from every rift among the American people. "Unfortunately, this involves certain people across the country who engage in reckless charges against one another."

The label of Communist is

~~Violent~~ calm. ~~Reformer~~ J. Edgar Hoover says job of fighting communism is not for vigilantes.

too often indiscriminately attached to those whose views differ from the majority," he added.

"There is above all the danger if irresponsible counteraction by citizens who lend impetus to Communism through inept attempts to fight this insidious menace."

Hoover said the way to fight it "is to study it, understand it and discover what can be done about it."

Dodd did not say whether he would press for a full investigation of the Birch Society.

Chairman John L. McClellan (D-Ark.) said his Senate Government Operations Committee has no plans to investigate the society because it has no jurisdiction. The committee and its permanent investigating subcommittee, also headed by McClellan, have broad investigative powers, but only in matters affecting government activities.

Letter Says "Patriotic"

The Internal Security subcommittee is headed by Sen. James O. Eastland (D-Miss.), but Dodd frequently serves as acting chairman.

The subcommittee so far has shown no inclination to look into the John Birch group's widespread activities. It has been answering inquiries with a form letter over Eastland's signature saying the group is a "conservative anti-Communist organization" and that so far as subcommittee records show is a "patriotic organization."

Kuchel and Dodd both attacked the society in Senate speeches yesterday and termed Welch's accusations "outrageous."

Sen. Milton R. Young (R-N.D.), who first discussed the society in a Senate speech Mar. 8, followed Dodd and Kuchel. He said he had been subjected to a barage of letters accusing him of "all manner of things."

But he said he was confident that many members were unaware of Welch's accusations against Eisenhower and other prominent persons.

Kuchel, aroused by the society's attacks on Eisenhower and Chief Justice Earl Warren, accused Welch of a "fantastic and incredible libel" for branding Eisenhower a "card-carrying Communist."

"Good God," he told the Senate. "Should the American people and the American government let that kind of spleen be poured on one who gives his whole life to the cause... of freedom?"

In suggesting that the Government Operations Committee ask Welch to prove his charges, Kuchel said "since he is unable to document them," the committee should "have him apologize to Eisenhower, to Warren, and the people of this country."

BS-8 Revised (6-17-59)

Society, an anti-communism organization that
troversty of its methods.

By United Press International

Robert Welch of Belmont, leader of the John
Birch Society, charges that the 1952 GOP presiden-
tial nomination was stolen from the late Sen. Robert
A. Taft.

Welch's bitterness against
ormer President Eisenhower
apparently dates from the 1952
convention, when Eisenhower
won the GOP nomination over
Taft.

In a startling "Letter to
Khrushchev," published in his
magazine "American Opinion"
in 1958 and now available in
pamphlet form, Welch told the
Russian leader he knew that
among the pro-Communist ac-
tivities of recent years had

"The snatching of the Repub-
lican nomination from Taft in
1952 by purchase, theft, secret
deals and other tactics were
foul than had ever before ap-
peared in American politics."

Later in the same letter,
which starts out assuring Khrush-
chev that "we know that you
are winning the cold war by
leaps and bounds," Welch wrote:

BIRCH

on Page Eight

(Continued from First Page)

"The president of one
of America's largest banks took
suitcases full of currency to the
convention, to bribe delegates
away from Taft; and he was
rewarded, for thus providing
such spontaniety, by a major
ambassadorship."

SEN. GOLDWATER
HIS CURRENT CHOICE

In an interview with United
Press International, Welch
named Taft and Gen. Douglas
MacArthur as men he consid-
ered great Americans of recent
years. But declined to name
his current favorites.

His "Blue Book," however,
leaves no doubt that his current
choice is Arizona's Republican
Sen. Barry Goldwater.

"I'd love to see him president
of the United States, and maybe
some day we shall," Welch said.

Goldwater, in response to a
UPI inquiry, said he wasn't
aware of any Birch Society en-
dorsement and wasn't in any
case running for anything except
the Senate. His term expires in
1964.

Goldwater said he was fa-
miliar with the organization, that
he had met several of its mem-
bers during his travels and
"they are very outstanding
people."

Welch, in a "Blue Book"
speech of December, 1958, called
former Vice President Richard
M. Nixon "one of the ablest,
shrewdest, most disingenuous,
and slipperiest politicians that
ever showed up on the Ameri-
can scene."

SAYS NIXON FAR
BETTER THAN ROCKY

But he said he would leave
his remarks about Nixon out of
the tape-recorded version of his
speech because "he MAY be the
best bet we have for the Repub-
lican standard bearer in 1960
who has any chance of getting
the nomination. He would be far
better than Nelson Rockefeller
..."

"I think Nixon could become
a very patriotic anti-Communist
if we could create circum-
stances in which it would be
smart politics to be one; where-
as I think Nelson Rockefeller
... is definitely committed to
trying to make the United
States a part of one-world
socialist government..."

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Boston, Mass.
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Edition: FIVE STAR FINAL
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Editor: HAROLD CLANCY
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Welch's views on President Kennedy were indicated before his election. He did not mention Kennedy by name but his sentiments were made clear in a discussion about "amoral man."

SEES JFK AS AID TO REDS

"You will usually find him in church on Sunday morning, maybe even a Catholic church," Welch said then.

"But as a member of the United States Senate, running for the presidency, and smart enough to know the strong Communist support behind the scenes which he will have to get in order to have any chance of being nominated in 1960, such an amoral man can do a tremendous amount of ball-carrying on behalf of the Communist aims here in the United States; and he can do an almost equal amount of damage to anti-Communist morale in other parts of the world, by his well-publicized speeches against Chiang Kai-shek or in favor of the Algerian rebels.

"And any similarity on characters in this story to any living persons is not coincidental."

"I am prepared to defend their right to express their views, as I would 'leftist' opinions," said Los Angeles attorney A. L. Wirin about the John Birch Society.

"That its views, however, are acceptable to any portion of the American public is a sad commentary on the present American political scene."

Sen. Milton R. Young, (R-ND)

who has criticized the society on the Senate floor, said "What surprises me most is not the size but the number of prominent men who belong."

12 LISTED

IN WHO'S WHO

Twelve of the 26 men currently listed as members of the society's council are listed in Who's Who in America.

They include two former presidents of the National Association of Manufacturers—William J. Grede and Cola G. Parker, both of Wisconsin—and a third former NAM president, Ernest G. Swigert of Portland, Ore., had previously been listed as a council member.

The Racine, Wis., Journal-Times, noting the association of these and other prominent businessmen with the group said:

"It is a cause for crackpots, but those allegedly responsible persons who support it will be tarred with the same brush."

Other council members include Spruille Braden, former U.S. Ambassador; T. Coleman Andrews, the former collector of Internal Revenue who ran for President on a platform calling for abolition of the income tax; Clarence Manion, former dean of the Notre Dame Law School and head of the highly conservative Manion Forum; M. T. Phelps, former chief justice of the Supreme Court of Arizona; Col. Laurence E. Bunker, former personal aide to Gen. Douglas MacArthur, and Lt. Gen. Charles B. Stone III, USAF ret., former commander of the 14th Air Force in China.

The late Alfred Kohlberg, New York importer best known for his letter-writing campaign in support of the so-called "China lobby" was a charter member and is still listed as such.

ADOLPHE MENJOY ONCE MEMBER

Adolphe Menjoy, the Hollywood actor, was at one time a member of the council. His wife said early in March that both she and her husband were still members of the society. On March 21, Mrs. Menjoy said her husband was in a hospital with a minor ailment but that he had withdrawn from the society, having found he disagreed with its founder and head, Robert Welch, "on certain points." She declined to elaborate.

Some answers to Wirin's question on the society's appeal were provided March 18 in two pages of letters printed by the Los Angeles Times following its editorial condemnation of the society.

Four writers said the Times articles preceding the editorial were prompt: them to join the society. Two justified their membership in these words:

"It is the only organization that I know of that gives vital information on what is really going on and gives us suggestions for positive action."

"If our government had made a real attempt to inform us, or to direct our attention to the need for this information, the John Birch Society would have been unnecessary."

Letter writers who praised the newspaper for its stand included former Vice President Richard M. Nixon, the president of the University of California at Los Angeles, Rep. James C.orman, D-Calif., and Methodist Bishop Gerald Kennedy.

One letter, signed only with initials and presumably written with a matrimonial "we," complimented the Times for explaining "probably much better than we might the reasons why we resigned after several months as members."

The letter said the writers had become disturbed by cards distributed by the society last year to protest the planned summit meeting. Designed for mailing to President Eisenhower, they read: "If you go—don't come back."

"Then we began to note that almost every public official—Roosevelt, Truman, Ike, Nixon, Dulles and others became ever-widening targets of Welch.

"We heard whispers, remarks prefaced by, 'Would you believe it if I told you—?' and we became increasingly wary.

"We became so disturbed with

the John Birch Society, and withdrew . . .

NIXON HITS AT METHODS

Former Vice President Richard M. Nixon wrote the Times: "It may at times seem unrealistic and naive to follow the rules of the game when our opponents are so unscrupulous and completely devoid of morality. But, in the end, refusing to resort to methods that are wrong not only is right but in the long run is the most effective way to combat an evil doctrine like communism. . .

"One of the most indelible lessons of human history is that those who adopt the doctrine that the end justifies the means inevitably find the means become the end."

Times publisher Otis Chandler rejoiced on two counts at the heavy reaction to the newspaper's stand. The readers' expenditure for "stamps, phone calls and shoe leather and aspirin he took as a happy omen that the economy is on the upswing.

Further, he wrote: "To stand up and say unequivocally what you believe in your heart is the right thing, regardless of immediate discomforts or neighborhood reactions, is a blessed virtue. We have done this on major issues of concern to all of us, and we respect and thank God you, the American public, have the guts to do the same. This, in itself, hurts the Communist cause."

The first count of replies, he said, was: "Pro Times policy—126 letters, 13 phone calls, 1 new subscription; against—163 pieces of mail, 8 phone calls, 22 actual subscriber cancellations and 12 threats or mentions of cancellations."

The readers lined up slightly in favor of the John Birch Society in almost exactly the same proportion as the Supreme Court has lined up five to four in favor of the doctrine that freedom of speech is not an absolute right when it becomes involved with communism.

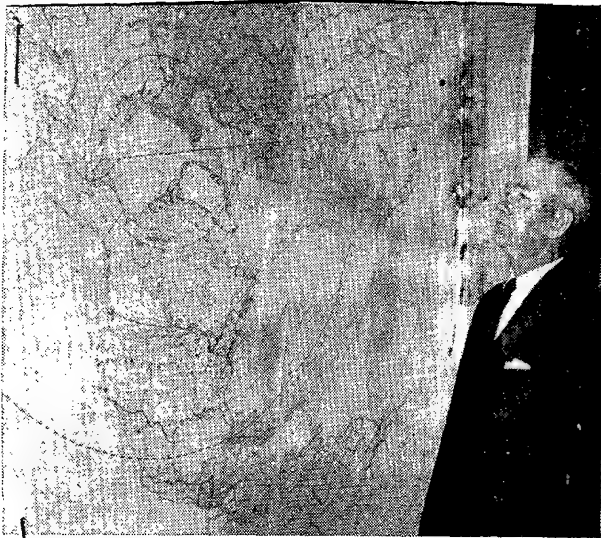
Extending the judicial difference of opinion into the realm of the society's operations would appear to create a two-edged sword.

The court minority which might look askance at the society's own efforts to suppress dissent would nonetheless support its right to think and say what it chooses.

The five-man majority has already held that the freedom of speech and association must be balanced against the public interest. As Justice John Marshall Harlan wrote in the Barenblatt decision, it has upheld "federal legislation aimed at the Communist problems which in a different context would certainly have raised constitutional issues of the gravest character."

In a minority decision by Justice Hugo Black, with concurrence of Chief Justice Warren who has been attacked by the society:

"Liberty, to be secure for any, must be secure for all—even the most miserable men—of hatred and unpopular ideas."



ROBERT WELCH JR. of Belmont, who founded the John Birch Society, studies a map in his office showing the spread of communism.

ees *Them...*



PRESIDENT KENNEDY
"... an amoral man"



SEN. BARRY GOLDWATER
Choice For President



RICHARD M. NIXON
"... able, shrewd, slippery"



NELSON ROCKEFELLER
"One-World Socialist"

NAM Slaps Birch Society In Resolution

NEW YORK, Mar. 31 (UPI)—The National Association of Manufacturers disclosed today that it had in effect censured the John Birch Society in a board resolution adopted in September.

Charles R. Sligh Jr., executive vice president of the NAM, said the three former NAM presidents listed as members of the council of the controversial society participated in drawing up the resolution which was passed unanimously.

The resolution did not mention the society or its founder and leader, Robert Welch, by name. But Sligh said it was passed after disclosure that Welch had called former President Eisenhower a Communist. It affirmed the NAM's confidence in Eisenhower and said the organization "does not and will not knowingly be associated with any individual or by a party to any organization that questions the loyalty and integrity of President Eisenhower or attempts to degrade the fundamental respect due him and his high office."

Sligh emphasized that the NAM "has no connection with the John Birch Society, and never has, and never will."

He said Welch, who was once a director of the NAM, has not had any connection with it for many years. Sligh said he could not speak for the three former NAM presidents, all now board members of the NAM, who have been listed as leaders in the Birch society.

They are William J. Grede, Elm Grove, Wis., NAM president in 1952; Cola G. Parker, Neenah, Wis., 1956 president; and Ernest G. Swigert, Portland, Ore., 1957 president.

Sligh said the NAM board's resolutions had not been made public at the time it was passed because the "flurry" over Welch's charges seemed to be passing and there appeared to be no point in stirring up further controversy.

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 The society "has broken no law, violated no moral principles and has as a firmly stated foundation of its program that even good ends never justify bad means," he said.

"Our only crime is fighting communism, and that we intend to do until our side wins."

Prior to the foundation of the society, Welch wrote a series of letters (sometimes referred to as a book) in which it is reported he said:

"But my firm belief that Dwight Eisenhower is a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist Party is based on an accumulation of detailed evidence so extensive and so palpable that it seems to me to put this conviction beyond any reasonable doubt."

In an interview last night, when asked about the paragraph, Welch told an Associated Press reporter, "I never thought it then with firmness enough to publish it or to say it in public and I don't today."

The book—or letter—also describes Presidents Truman and Roosevelt and the late Secretary of State Dulles as tools of communism. When asked about this, he told a reporter he had said, "They were

being used by the Communists—I never said they were Communists and I don't say it now."

In another part of the book, this reference is made to Milton Eisenhower, the former President's brother:

"In my opinion, the chances are very strong that Milton Eisenhower is actually Dwight Eisenhower's superior and boss within the Communist Party. For one thing, he is obviously a great deal smarter."

Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel (R-Calif.), denounced Welch Thursday, saying he had called Eisenhower a "card-carrying Communist."

Meanwhile, two agencies are considering or may soon consider investigation of the group while a third has dropped plans to probe it.

Congressmen are considering asking the Justice Department to look into the society, according to informed sources and a spokesman for the department said. "We are concerned about it."

WELCH

Page Fourteen

BIRCH

Continued from the First Page

A spokesman for Welch at the society's Belmont, Mass., headquarters said today the founder had no comment on criticism of the group and demands for an investigation.

But Rep. Edgar W. Hiestand (R-Calif.), the first member of Congress to reveal that he belongs to the society, said he and Welch would welcome a congressional inquiry — "the more thorough the better."

Later, Rep. John H. Rousselot (R-Calif.), identified himself as another John Birch member. He said in San Marino, Calif., that society chapters in his area are "basically study groups, not a m waging people who run around harassing others."

Like Hiestand, Rousselot called for hearings "so that the mysticism of the society—the cloak of darkness—can be cleared up."

Hiestand defended the organization as the best means of fighting the "communist conspiracy." He conceded that some members might be extremists, but denied the society is a clandestine or fascist group.

He told a news conference the society's main purposes were "violent and emphatic anti-communism" and promotion of "less and less government."

Hoover wrote in the April Law Enforcement Bulletin that communists stand to gain from any rift created by a fair people across the country who engage in reckless charges against one another."

Several more House members criticized the society, particularly its drive to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren and Welch's statement several years ago that former President Eisenhower, the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and Central Intelligence Agency chief Allen W. Dulles were Communists.

But a number of lawmakers shied away from any congressional investigation on grounds the society had a right to state its views even though they might be unpopular.

Hiestand Defends Stand

Hiestand said he did not go along with the society's campaign to impeach Warren. He also said Welch's charges against Eisenhower had been misinterpreted.

"I disagree on several things with the founder, just as I do not subscribe to everything in the platform or agree with what all Republicans say," Hiestand said. "But, I choose to stay because the society as a whole is a 98 percent dedicated anti-Communist group."

Pressed to explain the 98 percent figure, the California Republican said any such group might have members who "sound off and become extremists."

N.A.M. Censure Reported

In New York City, the National Association of Manufacturers said it had in effect censured the society in a board resolution adopted last September. An official said three former N.A.M. presidents, listed as members of the society, helped draft the resolution.

In a related development, F.B.I. Director J. Edgar Hoover criticized "vigilante action" by Americans opposed to communism. But he did not name the society or any other group.

BS-8 Revised (6-17-59)

Welch Denies Calling Ike Card-Carrying Communist

'Agent' Charge In Book Queried

The 61-year-old retired Belmont businessman who founded the controversial John Birch Society denied last night that he ever called President Eisenhower a "card-carrying Communist" and said his organization is not a secret one.

Robert H. W. Welch Jr. stoutly defended his group, estimated to number almost 100,000 across the country, stating: "The members are a group of splendid men and women of good character, fervent patriotism, religious ideals and of excellent standing in their respective communities."

Boston American, Boston, Mass.
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.
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Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.
Christian Science Monitor,
Boston, Mass.
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

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FBI - BOSTON

Welch Asks Senate Probe Birch Society

Robert H. W. Welch Jr., 61-year-old founder of the John Birch Society, last night asked the U.S. Senate Internal Security Subcommittee to investigate his anti-Communist organization.

His telegram was sent to Sen. James O. Eastland, chairman of the Senate group.

Welch promised that any members of the society called would gladly testify and that none would claim the Fifth Amendment.

The notice was on its way to Washington even as State Rep. Sumner Z. Kaplan of Brookline announced he was

withdrawing a request for a local probe.

Kaplan said he conferred with Atty. Gen. McCormack who advised him the activities of the society have long been known to the attorney general and to Leo Laughlin, agent-in-charge of the Boston office of the FBI.

The attorney general advised Kaplan that a matter such as this "is properly to be handled by the Federal government rather than the state government and I feel no further action need be taken here."

WELCH

Page Twenty-four

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WELCH

Continued from the First Page

Welch is a former Cambridge candy manufacturer who retired to work for the cause of his society.

In his wire he pointed out:

"Because of the charges now being so widely circulated about us, some of which are extreme distortions of

fact and many of which are sheer fabrication, the John Birch Society respectfully requests an official investigation by the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee of which you (Sen. Eastland) are chairman.

Welch said as many members of the society as the committee would like to summon will gladly testify about the "back-

ground, methods, purposes, and specific activities of the society."

The wire gave assurance that no member would plead the Fifth Amendment, stating: "As we recently told the chairman of a committee in California that unlike our Communist enemies, none of the members will plead the Fifth Amendment."

It was revealed Friday that

Gov. Edmund Brown of California has called off a scheduled investigation of the group by his subversive activities committee.

Welch's wire concluded: "In the course of such an investigation we hope to be able to present to your committee and through your committee to the American people, the truth about the John Birch Society."

United Press International reports that already the Senate subcommittee, over the signature of Sen. Eastland, has told inquirers:

"The John Birch Society, about which you asked, is known to be a conservative anti-Communist organization officially.

"We are happy to state that it seems to be, from our records, a patriotic organization."

The request for an investigation followed a statement from Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.), vice-chairman of the Senate Subcommittee, in which he raised the possibility of a Senate investigation of the anti-Communist group. Other members of Congress are also pressing for a probe.

A Federal agency revealed last night that the John Birch Society has been attacked by the Communist Party and by the American Nazi Party headed by George Lincoln Rockwell.

Opinion in Belmont

Col. Laurence E. Bunker of Wellesley, a member of the society's national council, its

which is the governing board of the society, said that Khushchev himself, through the Communist Party's West Coast publication, "People's Word," listed the society as one to be abolished by the end of 1961.

Local public opinion in Belmont, headquarters of the society, varied: "I can't make out what kind of an outfit they are"—"It's about time we got something like this"—"They must be a bunch of nuts."

Belmont officials described Welch as an upstanding member of the community, well respected and highly thought of by everyone and said there never has been any trouble with the society, that they were an orderly group of people.

The national uproar came after a series of letters were found written by Welch prior to the organization's formation in which he severely criticized President Eisenhower, his brother Milton and Presidents Roosevelt and Truman.

The letters were bound in a looseleaf binding and sent to various friends of Welch's. Because he kept adding to them they eventually became known as a book under the title "The Politician."

Col. Bunker said the letters were known to the society's national council when the Birch Society was formed and it was felt they were personal opinions of Welch, never meant for publication, and had no connection with the society, its ideals or purposes.

Welch Asks Congress Prob Birch Society, Pledges Full Story

The founder of the John Birch Society yesterday asked for a Congressional investigation of his organization and promised a full disclosure of its methods, purposes and activities.

Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., of Belmont, militant foe of all things to the political left of extreme right, sent a "respectful request for an official investigation" to Sen. James O. Eastland (D. Miss.), chairman of the Senate Internal Security subcommittee.

WON'T PLEAD FIFTH

In he promised that "as many of our members as your committee may wish will gladly testify (and) none of our members will plead the Fifth Amendment."

Although Welch has hotly denied that the John Birch Society is a secret one, he has declined to name any of its members except those listed as council members.

He also has refused to divulge the total membership, although he

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Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.
XXX Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.
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Editor: GEORGE E. MINOT
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sees the society has 25 "chapters" in Massachusetts and is "strongest in California, Texas, Arizona and Tennessee."

10 TO 20 IN EACH

A chapter generally is comprised of 10 to 20 members, Welch said, but "we had one in Connecticut that grew to 44 before we got them to split. There are five there now." He did not identify the community.

In his message to Eastland,

Welch said the society is a "group of men and women of good character, fervent patriotism, religious ideals and excellent standing in their respective communities."

"The society has broken no law, and violated no moral principles. Our only 'crime' is fighting communism and that we intend to continue until our side wins."

A current goal of the society is the impeachment of U. S. Chief Justice Earl Warren.

DATA GOES TO FBI

Byron Barren of Springfield, Va., described as a field representative of the society, said that "in a total of 39 cases before the court involving Communist subversion, Justice Warren ruled in 36 of them in favor of the Communist point of view."

The prospects last night were that whatever investigation of the group may take place, will be by federal agencies.

Rep. Sumner Z. Kaplan (D-

Brookline) said he has changed his mind about seeking an investigation by the state Commission on Communism and Subversive Activities.

Following a conference with Atty. Gen. McCormack, Kaplan said that whatever information the attorney general's office has gathered on the Birch Society has been turned over to the FBI.

FEDERAL PROBLEM

"In view of the attorney gen-

eral's belief that a matter such as this is properly to be handled by the federal government, I feel that no further action need be taken."

Welch and his right-wing group hit the public eye with the disclosure he once referred to President Eisenhower as a "conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy." He also has alleged in writing that Presidents Truman and Roosevelt were tools of the Communists.

BS-8 Revised (6-17-59)

Welch Raps Critics, Denies Ike Slur

State Probe Of Society Is Urged

The Massachusetts Legislature will be asked to investigate the John Birch Society, whose founder, Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., of Belmont, denies he ever called former President Eisenhower a "card-carrying Communist."

Rep. Sumner Z. Kaplan (D-Brookline) said last night he would introduce an order in the House Monday calling on the Massachusetts Commission on Communism and Subversive Activities to investigate the society.

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'No Other Choice'

The commission chairman, Sen. Richard R. Caples (D-Brighton), told The Herald "if the Legislature gives us the mandate, we have no other choice but to investigate the group."

At the society headquarters, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, yesterday Welch blasted his critics and explained the workings of the organization. He charged an "incredible fog of falsehood" has been so widely circulated against him that he decided to issue a statement.

Telling of the Birch Society he declared, "The society simply because we have sought to avoid publicity, is not a secret society. Our objective has been to build strength and understanding instead of creating noise. All our materials are wide open for anyone to purchase."

Splendid Men, Women

He declared the society is a group of "splendid men and women of good character, fervent patriotism, religious ideals, and excellent standings in the communities."

Asked about the opinion, widely attributed to him, that Gen. Eisenhower was a Communist agent, Welch said: "I never had that opinion." "I never thought it then with firmness enough to publish it or to say it in public, and I don't today."

The attack on the former President is contained in a privately circulated letter written by Welch before the society was founded in 1958. Known as "The Politician," it grew to 80,000 words as Welch revised it.

He maintains it was never intended for public distribution. It was "specifically disavowed" by

(Continued on Page Four)

(Continued from First Page)

the founding members as "no part of the material of belief of the John Birch Society in any way," he said yesterday.

It contains this paragraph:

"But my firm belief that Dwight Eisenhower is a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy is based on an accumulation of detailed evidence so extensive and so palpable that it seems to me to put this conviction beyond any reasonable doubt."

"The Politician" also describes former Presidents Roosevelt and Truman and the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles as tools of communism.

"They were being used by the Communists — I never said they were Communists and I don't say it now," Welch told a reporter.

Most widely known of current society objectives is the impeachment of Chief Justice Earl Warren of the U. S. Supreme Court.

Members have written Congressional and newspaper "letters" columns and have circulated pamphlets to this end.

3-FOLD FUNCTION

In a pamphlet published Jan. 31, Welch, who runs the society as absolute ruler, described its council as "top governing body under the founder."

Functions, he said, are threefold: To show the stature of its leadership, to advise him, and "to select, with absolute and final authority, a successor to myself as head of the John Birch Society, if and when an accident, 'suicide' or anything sufficiently fatal is arranged for me by the Communists — or I simply die in bed of old age or a cantankerous disposition."

Welch, 61, retired as vice-president of a Cambridge candy company to devote full time to the society.

A onetime candidate for the Republican nomination for lieutenant governor, he is a former New England regional vice-president of the National Association of Manufacturers.

The NAM disclosed yesterday it had, in effect, censured the society, in a board resolution adopted last September.

Charles R. Sligh, Jr., executive vice president of the NAM, said in New York City that three former NAM presidents who are members of the Birch Society council participated in drawing the resolution.

CONFIDENCE IN IKE

Without mentioning the society or Welch by name, it affirmed the NAM's confidence in Eisenhower and added that the association "does not and will not knowingly be associated with any individual or be a party to any organization that questions the loyalty and integrity of President Eisenhower or attempts to degrade the fundamental respect due him and his high office."

Controversy over the society exploded yesterday in Washington.

Two California Congressmen confirmed they were members of the society. A member of the House un-American activities committee praised it. A Justice Department spokesman said its activities had become "a matter of concern."

The Congressmen, both Republicans, are Edgar W. Hiestand and John Rousselot.

Hiestand charged attacks on the society are part of a "pro-Communist smear" and said he felt sure other members of the House are members.

The un-American activities com-

mittee member, Gordon H. Scherer (R-Ohio) wrote Republicans whip Leslie C. Arends (Ill) that he "looked favorably on the organization."

"Its membership is composed of conservatives and anti-Communists, and it is a basically pro - American organization," Scherer said.

"In Cincinnati," he added, "many of our outstanding citizens are members of the local chapter."

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover yesterday published an editorial in the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin that was interpreted as critical of the society.

The editorial spoke of "reckless charges" and "vigilante action" and emphasized that the "job of curtailing and containing communism is one for legally constituted authorities with the steadfast cooperation of every loyal citizen."

'HEARTILY IN ACCORD'

From Fort Worth, Tex., the mother of the man for whom the society is named, said she and her husband are "heartily in accord with the purpose and the procedure of the John Birch Society."

Mrs. George S. Birch of Macon, Ga., said the parents are honorary life members of the society.

John Birch, a graduate of the Baptist Bible Institute of Fort Worth, was killed by Chinese Communists 10 days after VJ day. The society considers him the first casualty of "World War III," which Welch sees as the struggle between free and Communist nations, already underway.

Mrs. Birch said she was very happy that Mr. Welch chose our son.

Birch Society Lists Council 'Governing Body' Of Welch's Group

The founder of the John Birch Society, Robert Welch, yesterday gave a reporter a quantity of literature issued by the organization, including a pamphlet listing the society council.

The council is described in the booklet as the "top governing body under the founder." The date of the pamphlet is given as Jan. 31, 1961.

Listed as council members are

Dr. N. E. Adamson Jr., of Boston.
Thomas J. Anderson, editor and publisher of Farm and Ranch, T. Coleman Andrews of Richmond Va.
Spruille Braden of New York City.
Retired Army Col. Laurence E. Bunker of Wellesley.
F. Gane Chance, president of A. B. Chance Co., Centralia Mo.
S. J. Conner, president of Conroth Co., Chicago.
Ralph E. Davis, president of General Plant Protection Corp., Los Angeles.
Dr. S. M. Draskovich, editor in chief of "The Serbian Struggle," Chicago.
The Rev. Richard Ginder, associate editor of Our Sunday Visitor, Catholic weekly newspaper.
William J. Grede, president of Grede Foundries, Inc., Milwaukee.
A. G. Heinsgen Jr., president of Cherokee Mills, Sevierville Tenn.
Dr. Granville F. Knight, Santa Barbara, Calif.
Fred C. Koch, Wichita, Kan.
Alfred Kohlberg, deceased, was a charter member of the council.
Clarence Alanson, former dean of Notre Dame University Law School.
Frank E. Masland, Jr., Carlisle, Pa.
N. Floyd McGowan, Chapman, Ala.
W. B. McMillan, president of Hussmann Refrigerator Co., St. Louis.
Revilo P. Oliver, University of Illinois professor.
Cole G. Parker, a former president of National Association of Manufacturers.
M. T. Phelps, former chief justice of Arizona Supreme Court.
Louis Rutenburg, Evansville, Ind.
J. Nelson Shenzler, Sioux Falls, S. D.
James Simson, Jr., deceased, charter member of council.
Robert W. Stoddard, president of Wyman Co., Worcester.
Retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Charles Stone, Ill.
Paul H. Talburt, president of Paul H. Talburt Co., Beverly Hills, Calif.

Welch Statement Defending Group

The following is the statement of Robert Welch, founder of the John Birch Society:

"This statement is offered as an effort to pierce, by at least a tiny beam of truth, some of the incredible fog of falsehood now being so widely circulated about me. So please let me point out the following facts.

"Nowhere in my private or published writings have I ever called former President Eisenhower a 'card-carrying' Communist. Anybody who says I have is either knowingly dealing in falsehoods or is badly misinformed.

No Quarrel

"Even in my private confidential letter, written years ago, which it has been completely unethical for anybody to quote anywhere, and in which I stated in the blunt language of a personal letter some harsh personal opinions of our then-president, I made it very clear at the end of the letter that I had no quarrel with anybody who wished to attribute his actions simply to political opportunism. That is how the letter came to be dubbed 'The Politician.'

"Also, please note that this long letter had been read in 1955 by most of the men who were at the founding meeting of the John Birch Society in December, 1958. Despite having read my letter, most of them had vigorously supported Eisenhower in the 1956 campaign. And at the founding of the society, the letter was discussed and specifically disavowed by the group as being ~~no~~ part of the material belief of the John Birch Society in any way.

justify bad means. We ask at least the responsible part of the American press to have more regard for the truth about us. Our only 'crime' is fighting Communism, and that we intend to continue until our side wins."

"Please note too that, despite falsehoods now being circulated I have gone out of my way to make clear in my book that I did not think either Roosevelt or Truman were Communists or sympathizers in any way with ultimate Communist aims. And there are many other statements being attributed to me that are equally false or distorted.

"The John Birch Society is not, simply because we have sought to avoid publicity, thereby a secret society. Our objective has been to build strength and understanding instead of creating noise. All of our materials are wide open for anybody to purchase. The John Birch Society is a group of splendid men and women of good character, fervent patriotism, religious ideals, and excellent standing in their respective communities.

"It has broken no law, violates no moral principles and has as a firmly-stated foundation of its program that even good ends never

Birch Society Probe Urged By Macdonald

Cong. Torbert H. Macdonald of Malden, sent a telegram yesterday to Chairman Francis E. Walter, chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee, urging a probe of the controversial John Birch Society.

Macdonald cited the confusion surrounding the exact nature of the group. He said that in view of the "conflicting statements and seriousness of the charges leveled" by Robert H. W. Welch Jr., there are legal grounds for the committee to launch an investigation.

"On one hand, we hear that derogatory remarks have been

made about the President and former Presidents," he said.

"But on the other hand, respectable people know about the society, support it and deny the allegations.

"It may be good for all concerned to have the matter cleared up by a House investigation."

He asked the probers to determine what the organization stands for, who its members are and how it operates.

Macdonald's demand for an investigation followed a similar request by Welch, the 61-

year-old founder, forwarded Saturday to Sen. James O.

Eastland, chairman of the U.S. Senate Internal Security subcommittee.

Welch promised that members of his society would gladly testify. Eastland said yesterday he will put the question of a probe to a vote of the full committee.

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Accusation Is 'Baloney' Says Manchesterite

Upholds John Birch Society

"We welcome all the publicity being focused on the John Birch society. It is wonderful to bring before the public the aims and accomplishments of the organization," Col. W. Bruce Pirnie of Manchester, one of the 10 Massachusetts endorsers of the society told The Salem News this morning.

The Manchester man who has just returned from a Caribbean cruise said he was not updated on recent events pertaining to accusations against members and the organization, but he believed the statements and charges were "a lot of baloney."

NO SECRET GROUP

"This is no secret organization. All the aims and activities can be procured by the public in pamphlets and literature. It is a fine thing, getting all this publicity."

Col. Pirnie, who is New England chairman of the steering committee for The Committee of One Million to keep Red China out of the United Nations which has over 300,000 members in New England declared "The public must be kept informed of what is going on in Red China."

The Manchester man is thoroughly familiar with the Chinese situation having served in a dual capacity of major general in the U. S. Army and a colonel in the Chinese army as deputy consul general of China during World War II.

His son Douglas holds a responsible position with the Socony-Vacuum Oil company in Bangkok as general manager of the company's interests in the Far East, and Col. Pirnie plans to visit him in a few weeks. On this two-month trip the Manchester man, a member of the Boston Rotary club will visit numerous Far Eastern countries, concluding by attending the Rotary International convention in Japan next month.

This past winter Col. Pirnie led a group which filed a bill with the Massachusetts State legislature to abolish the state income tax, recommending

(ACCUSSION-)

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(Accusation-)

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means whereby the state could be financed without such a levy.

Boston American, Boston, Mass.
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.
Christian Science Monitor,
Boston, Mass.
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Salem Evening News
Date: 1/1/61
Editor: Latest
Author:
Editor: Warren Rockwell
Title: John Birch Society

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4 April 1961

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Dear [REDACTED]

The best information I have been able to get on the source of the anti-John Birch Society mimeograph is that it came from the ANTI DEFAMATION LEAGUE, 515 Madison Avenue, New York City.

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I'm glad somebody came to the defence of Dwight Eisenhower and Allen Dulles !

Cordially,

SPL/dw

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BS-3 Revised (6-17-59)

The John Birch Group Violates Democratic

Sen. Barry M. Goldwater, R-Ark., leader of the conservative wing of the GOP, has disassociated himself from the John Birch Society, an extremist right-wing undercover group. It honors the senator that he is able to say that he is not and never has been a member of the society. But one thing he said about the society is troubling:

"I think their avowed purpose is anti-Communist, and I don't see how we can be against that. I might add I know the type of people it has attracted in my own community of Phoenix, and I am impressed with them. They are the kind we need in politics." Two points here raise questions of some importance.

Is the senator suggesting that something good always can be said about any organization if its "avowed purpose" is anti-communism? Hitler led a Nazi party with the "avowed purpose" of anti-com-

munist, but it is extremely difficult even today to find much good that can be said about the Hitlerian dictatorship.



Goldwater

campaign of subversion, lying and slander run by Communists.

The senator's readiness to uphold the society's "avowed purpose," we're afraid, will be twisted into a readiness to condone the society's campaigning in support of its pur-

pose. His remark is particularly curious in that he has disavowed any effort to copy communist methods in the fight against communism.

The simple fact is that the society preaches a political philosophy wholly at variance with the democratic concept. Further, the society has not hesitated to use communist tricks of attack against those whom it believes to be soft on communism or "dupes"—by its own definition—of the communist line.

The second point raised by the senator's remarks on the society relate to the fact that he found estimable people from his own community in the society. Has the senator forgotten that a number of thoroughly estimable Germans followed the Hitlerian chimera in the Nazi fight against communism—and lost democracy on the way?

The John Birch Society, just like the Communists, has the right to speak and act in the framework of democracy under law unless investigation establishes that it has transgressed that law. But the society must be heard in the full context of its operations; it cannot be allowed to operate at its own will simply because of its "avowed purpose."

Concepts

Americans oppose communism as a philosophy and way of life, but it is repugnant that any organization should invoke the slogan of anti-communism to mask or excuse activities which are just as inimical to a democracy as a

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Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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FROM : SA PAUL A. KEANE

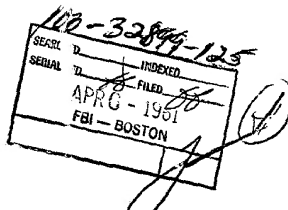
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Page 60 ~ Referral/Direct

Page 61 ~ Referral/Direct

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Page 88 ~ Duplicate p. 88

Page 152 ~ Duplicate pgs 150 & 151

Page 153 ~ Duplicate pgs 150 & 151

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Page 164 ~ b6, b7C, b7D